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United Nations

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund

Report of the Executive Board on its work during 2006

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Official Records, 2006
Supplement No. 15

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Note

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Contents

Chapter		Page
	Part one. First regular session	
I.	Organizational matters	2
	UNDP segment	
II.	Financial, budgetary and administrative matters	4
III.	Country programmes and related matters	4
IV-V.	Evaluation/Gender in UNDP	6
VI.	United Nations Capital Development Fund	7
VII.	United Nations Development Fund for Women	8
VIII.	United Nations Office for Project Services	8
	Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment	
IX.	Recommendations of the Board of Auditors	9
X.	Report to the Economic and Social Council	11
XI.	Programming process	12
	UNFPA segment	
XII.	Country programmes and related matters	15
XIII.	Other matters	16
	Joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP	18
	Part two. Annual session	
I.	Organizational matters	24
	UNFPA segment	
II.	Annual report of the Executive Director	25
III.	Funding commitments to UNFPA	29
IV.	Country programmes and related matters	30
V.	Evaluation	32
	UNDP segment	
VI.	Annual report of the Administrator	34
VII.	Funding commitments to UNDP	35
VIII.	Human Development Report	36
IX.	Country programmes and related matters	36
X.	South-South cooperation	37

XI. United Nations Office for Project Services 37
XII. United Nations Capital Development Fund 38
XIII. United Nations Volunteers 39
XIV. United Nations Development Fund for Women 40
XV. Evaluation 40

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

XVI. Internal audit and oversight 41
XVII. Programming process 43
XVIII. Field visits 44
XIX. Multi-year funding framework, 2008-2011 44
XX. Other matters 45

Part three. Second regular session

I. Organizational matters 48

UNDP segment

II. Statement by the Administrator and financial, budgetary and administrative matters 48
III. Country programmes and related matters (UNDP) 50
IV. United Nations Development Fund for Women 51
V. United Nations Office for Project Services 52

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

VI. Follow-up to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting 52
VII. Programming process 54
VIII. Field visits 54

UNFPA segment

IX. Statement by the Executive Director and financial, administrative and budgetary matters 55
X. UNFPA role in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery 58
XI. Country programmes and related matters (UNFPA) 60

Annexes

I. Decisions adopted by the Executive Board during 2006 61
II. Membership of the Executive Board in 2006 94

Part one
First regular session

Held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 20 to 27 January 2006

I. Organizational matters

1. The first regular session 2006 of the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA was held at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 24 to 27 January.

2. The Executive Board elected the following members of the Bureau for 2006:

President: H.E. Mr. Valery P. Kuchinsky	(Ukraine)
Vice-President: Mr. Kazuo Sunaga	(Japan)
Vice-President: H.E. Mr. Crispin Grey-Johnson	(Gambia)
Vice President: H.E. Ms. Adiyatwidi Adiwoso Asmady	(Indonesia)
Vice-President: Mr. George W. Talbot	(Guyana)

3. Upon his election, the new President recognized the work of the outgoing Bureau and thanked them for their dedication. The President recalled the 2005 World Summit Outcome, bestowing individual and collective responsibilities to deliver on international development commitments, and stressed that UNDP would be on the forefront of the implementation of the far-reaching reforms expected in 2006.

4. The Executive Board approved the agenda and work plan for its first regular session 2006 (DP/2006/L.1), and its annual work plan 2006 (DP/2006/CRP.1). The report for the second regular session of the 2005 Executive Board (DP/2006/1) was also approved.

5. At its first regular session 2006, the Executive Board adopted ten decisions, including the overview of decisions, and reviewed the work plan for the annual session in June 2006.

6. Decisions adopted by the Executive Board in 2005 appeared in document DP/2006/2, while decisions adopted at the first regular session 2006 were included in document DP/2006/10, which could be accessed on the website of the Executive Board secretariat at www.undp.org/execbrd.

7. Following informal consultations, the Executive Board adopted decision 2006/7 whereby it decided to continue the consultations and discussions on the working methods of the Board, requesting UNDP and UNFPA to present suggestions at the annual session 2006 on further enhancements to those methods.

Statement by the Administrator

8. In his address to the Executive Board, the Administrator recalled the renewed international commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that had emerged from the 2005 World Summit and outlined his vision of the role of UNDP. The Administrator drew particular attention to:

(a) The follow-up to the 2005 World Summit and the United Nations reform process, whereby UNDP stands committed to the development of comprehensive frameworks that align the MDGs with the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), supports the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and of the Democracy Fund, and is moving ahead to strengthen the Resident Coordinator system and the proposed scaling-up of the United Nations

Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) as the United Nations common programme;

(b) The integrating, facilitating and coordinating role conferred upon UNDP within the larger United Nations Development Group (UNDG), noting that its work focuses on the quality, sustainability and distributional aspects of growth as well as on coping with natural disasters and man-made crises;

(c) The importance of developing national capacities in the prescribed practice areas of crisis prevention and recovery, democratic governance, poverty reduction, energy and environment, HIV/AIDS, and gender equality, while acknowledging the growing importance of South-South cooperation;

(d) The inherent tension between country-driven programmes and a corporate strategic direction, the emerging relevance of new actors and the redefinition of the role of the state brought about by the globalization process, which constitute key challenges ahead;

(e) The reaffirmation of the Associate Administrator as the chief operating officer of UNDP, the establishment of new internal structures in support of senior management, renewed attention to staff deployment and to the use of the associated funds and programmes (UNIFEM, UNICEF and UNV), which are integral elements of the ongoing process of management review; and

(f) The increase in UNDP total income to over $4 billion, fuelled by increases in both core and non-core resources, which leaves the organization $180 million short of the 2007 income target.

9. The Administrator recognized and thanked the departing Directors of the Regional Bureaux for Africa, the Arab States and Latin America and the Caribbean, for their individual dedication to furthering development and the ideals of the United Nations as well as for their respective contributions to modernizing UNDP.

10. The Administrator thanked the outgoing Associate Administrator warmly for his seven years of dedicated service to UNDP and welcomed the newly appointed Associate Administrator.

11. Delegations commended the Administrator for his statement and concurred with his overall analysis, conclusions and vision for the future of UNDP and its role in furthering the broader process of United Nations reform. They assured the Administrator of their strong support and expressed their eagerness to work with him and his team.

12. Member states were particularly encouraged by the importance the Administrator attached to the United Nations reform process and to a new international aid architecture, and by his engagement in strengthening the resident coordinator system as part of the scaling-up of UNDG at the operational level.

13. Members noted that 2006 would be a crucial year in which to revitalize the operational arm of the United Nations. Stressing the need for urgent action to assist countries in achieving the MDGs, delegations called for continued UNDP leadership in support of greater UNDG integration and closer adherence to the principles of aid effectiveness enshrined in the Paris declaration on simplification and harmonization.

14. Delegations reiterated their support for the thematic focus of UNDP interventions as well as the continued emphasis on capacity development and national ownership; applauded the commitment to greater accountability and transparency; and noted the efforts undertaken to strengthen gender mainstreaming. Delegations also noted with satisfaction the role of UNDP in crisis prevention and

recovery, drawing attention to the peace and development nexus in the context of the future work of the Peacebuilding Commission.

15. In response, the Administrator thanked delegations for their thoughtful contributions and inputs, and was pleased to note the existence of a broad agreement among members on the basic premises of his vision. He expressed the hope that, notwithstanding differences in emphasis, the convergence of views manifested by members of the Board together with the international commitments made during the 2005 World Summit would soon translate into action in the areas of aid and trade. He informed Board members that the results of a UNDG-wide survey on the collective implementation of the harmonization process would soon be available.

UNDP segment

II. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

16. Speaking on behalf of the Associate Administrator, the Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Development Policy (BDP), introduced the item on the UNDP multi-year funding framework (MYFF) and on the development of the next MYFF, noting that this was the first year for which strategic planning and results were directly reported in Atlas. The Assistant Administrator emphasized that the MYFF, 2008-2011, was being developed within the context of an evolving external environment as postulated in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. Progress had also been made on linking the proposed programme requirements to resource requirements. The MYFF team leader reported on the timeline for the end-of-cycle assessment of performance of the MYFF, 2007-2007, and on the ongoing consultative process leading to the preparation of the MYFF, 2008-2011.

17. Delegations took note of the ongoing work and called upon the Administrator to report on the emerging strategic vision, programme directions and organizational strategy at the annual session, 2006, of the Executive Board.

18. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/1 on the MYFF, 2004-2007.

III. Country programmes and related matters

Approval of country programmes

19. In introducing the item on country programmes, the Vice-President recalled that, in accordance with decision 2001/11, country programmes would be approved on a no-objection basis without presentation or discussion, unless at least five Board members had requested the secretariat in writing before the meeting to bring a particular country programme before the Executive Board. The Vice-President indicated that no such request had been submitted to the secretariat.

20. The Assistant Administrator and Director, BDP, introduced the item on country programmes on behalf of the Associate Administrator, submitting for consideration

and approval two regional programmes and 23 country programmes, the drafts of which had been reviewed at the annual session and at the second regular session 2005 of the Executive Board.

21. The Executive Board approved the following UNDP country programmes submitted in 2005 on a no-objection basis without presentation or discussion: Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Ghana, Namibia, Swaziland, Uganda; the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Viet Nam; Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Turkey, Ukraine; Guyana, Peru, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Board also approved, on a no-objection basis without presentation or discussion, the regional programme document for the Arab States, 2006-2009, and the regional programme document for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, 2006-2010.

22. Delegations from countries whose programmes had been approved welcomed the alignment of the newly approved country programmes with individual national priorities, and urged UNDP to continue adhering to the principle of national ownership while furthering the process of simplifying and harmonizing procedures.

23. One delegation noted that, in approving the UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP Common Country Programme for Cape Verde, the Executive Board had acted solely on the elements of the document relating to UNDP. It urged UNDP to remain accountable to the Executive Board for the implementation of those elements by fulfilling the appropriate reporting obligations.

Report of the UNDP assessment mission to Myanmar

24. The Assistant Secretary-General and Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP) introduced the note by the Administrator on assistance to Myanmar (DP/2006/4) summarizing the findings of the independent assessment mission of the Human Development Initiative, phase IV (HDI-IV), and stressed that all components of the HDI-IV programme were found to have been designed and implemented in full conformity with the relevant prior decisions of the Executive Board (decisions 98/14 of 19 June 1998, 2001/15 of 14 September 2001, 2003/2 of 23 January 2003, 2004/2 of 30 January 2004, and 2005/3 of 28 January 2005).

25. The Resident Representative, UNDP Myanmar, briefed the Executive Board on the major conclusions, recommendations and strategic challenges identified by a two-member international independent assessment mission of the HDI-IV. The report found that the initiative had had a positive impact on rural poverty and held promise as a model for extended future efforts, while noting that UNDP was adequately following up on the recommendations of the 2004 assessment on the livelihoods and income-generating components of the initiative, as well as on the establishment of linkages between the HIV/AIDS project and the community development programme.

26. In follow-up to the recommendations of the assessment mission, the Resident Representative informed the Board that UNDP was actively sharing lessons learned with the wider community of practitioners, and that the results of impact evaluation missions currently under way would be available by May 2006. The Resident Representative noted that the support of the Executive Board for HDI-IV had made the geographic expansion of interventions possible, but stressed that the completion of work in expansion areas would require an extension of the present phase of the HDI.

27. The Resident Representative pointed out that there was evidence of growing vulnerability in Myanmar, leading to a deterioration of the humanitarian situation and a fragmentation of community networks. He stressed that the current challenge faced by the United Nations and assistance partners consists in preventing the exhaustion of social capital, alleviating the plight of civilian populations in conflict zones, and providing adequate protection to the most vulnerable groups in areas of limited access.

28. Members of the Board expressed concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Myanmar; commended the efforts of UNDP and the United Nations country team (UNCT); acknowledged that the HDI had contributed to alleviating the plight of vulnerable communities; and recognized that the HDI should be extended in time and expanded in coverage.

29. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/2 on the report of the assessment mission to Myanmar.

IV-V. Evaluation/Gender in UNDP

30. The Administrator introduced the topic, reaffirming the centrality of women's empowerment and gender equality in the work of UNDP and noting that the 2005 evaluation of gender mainstreaming constitutes a baseline for the implementation of a common agenda on gender equality. While recognizing the need to strengthen policies and field-based competencies, and to leverage the knowledge, advocacy and expertise of UNIFEM more effectively, the Administrator stressed that the visibility and impact of past work on gender equality has been inadequately monitored and documented. The Administrator presented an overview of the UNDP response to the evaluation of gender mainstreaming (DP/2006/7), announcing, on this occasion, the allocation of an additional $5 million per year from core resources for 2006 and 2007 towards the implementation of the gender action plan; the establishment of two new professional posts in the Gender Unit; and the introduction of enhanced systems to better capture resources allocated to gender-related activities and gender equality results. To ensure the accountability of senior management against the corporate commitments in this area, a gender steering and implementation committee has been established under the direct chairmanship of the Administrator, tasked with the periodic review of progress in gender mainstreaming on a regional basis.

31. The Director, Evaluation Office, summarized the findings and recommendations of the independent evaluation of gender mainstreaming in UNDP. The Assistant Secretary-General and Director, Bureau for Development Policy, provided additional details on the content of the management response to the evaluation of gender mainstreaming; summarized the contents of the 2005 progress report (DP/2006/8); and presented the corporate objectives contained in the gender action plan for 2006-2007 (DP/2006/9).

32. Delegates welcomed the constructive manner in which UNDP had reacted to the independent evaluation and, while expressing concern over the shortcomings identified by the evaluators, were encouraged both by the commitment of the Administrator and by his proposed course of action. The Executive Board was

particularly encouraged by the establishment of the gender steering and implementation committee, chaired by the Administrator, and called for additional steps to enhance incentive and accountability systems for staff at the operational level as well as across senior management.

33. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/3 on the evaluation of gender mainstreaming and the gender action plan, and requested that the Administrator report to the Board on its implementation at the first regular session in January 2007.

VI. United Nations Capital Development Fund

34. The Associate Administrator recalled Executive Board decision DP/2005/29 welcoming the Business Plan, 2005-2007, of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), "Investing in the Least Developed Countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals", in which it requested UNCDF to report on its budgeting and programming decision-making processes at the first regular session of the Board in 2006. In introducing the item on UNCDF, the Associate Administrator noted that the activities of the Fund in microfinance and local development were aligned with the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries; with the MDGs; and with the practice areas and service lines of UNDP. He reported that while UNCDF management restructuring had been completed, attention was now focused on addressing three remaining challenges, namely: mobilizing resources to achieve the stated goals, continuing to strengthen the field-based offices, and strengthening the partnership with UNDP.

35. The Executive Secretary of UNCDF presented the budgeting and decision-making processes and reported on the strategic review of its business plan and programmes; on the decentralization of the organizational structure of the Fund; on the establishment of a strong, well-defined strategic, operational and financial partnership with UNDP; and on budgeting priorities and constraints. He noted that a resource mobilization strategy in support of the proposed business plan would hinge on increased contributions as well as on diversification of sources of income.

36. Delegations welcomed the appointment of the new Executive Director and commended him for the clarity and focus of the UNCDF business plan, reiterating the relevance of the Fund in providing support to least developed countries (LDCs). Delegations expressed overall support for the business plan, encouraged management to pursue closer alignment with UNDP and its MYFF; and requested the Executive Secretary to report to the Executive Board at its annual session on the status of the implementation of the business plan.

37. Delegations called on members to provide financial support to UNCDF, and, noting an excessive reliance on a restricted number of donors for as much as 90 per cent of its core funding, called for greater diversification of funding sources. Echoing this concern, the delegations of Sweden and Norway indicated that their respective financial contributions to UNCDF would be subject to review if no significant improvements were made in the expansion and broadening of the resource base by September 2005.

38. The Executive Director assured members of the Board that UNCDF management would be pursuing an aggressive resource mobilization strategy over the following 60 days, offering partners a range of flexible funding mechanisms.

39. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/4 on the UNCDF budgeting and programming decision-making process.

VII. United Nations Development Fund for Women

40. Her Excellency the Ambassador of Zambia to the United States, a member of the Advisory Panel to the Consultative Committee of United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), briefed the Executive Board on the scope, method and findings of the organizational assessment. According to the Advisory Panel, while the structure and programmes of the UNIFEM had evolved significantly in response to an improving political context in support of the empowerment of women and gender equality, the authority and status of UNIFEM had remained static and the expansion of its core resource base was deemed inadequate. In response to the assessed problems, a set of time-bound recommendations on the future role and structure of UNIFEM was presented in the context of the broader United Nations system.

41. One delegation, speaking on behalf of the Consultative Committee of UNIFEM, indicated that the report of the Advisory Panel had not been formally endorsed since the Consultative Committee felt that the report should first be the subject of a broad discussion within the United Nations system that would feed into the forthcoming report of the Secretary-General on the mandates and funds of the United Nations.

42. Delegations welcomed the efforts of UNIFEM to strengthen coordination and technical support on gender equality in the UNCTs in line with the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR); called on Member States to increase their contributions to the fund; called for strengthened collaboration between UNDP and UNIFEM at the programme level; called on the Administrator to ensure UNIFEM access to relevant United Nations forums; and requested that he report on progress to the Executive Board at its annual session in June 2006.

43. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/5 on the organizational assessment of UNIFEM.

VIII. United Nations Office for Project Services

44. In compliance with Executive Board decision 2005/36, the Executive Director, a.i., of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) reported to the Executive Board on progress achieved in the implementation of actions to restore the viability of UNOPS (DP/2006/11); updated members on the projected 2005 year-end financial results; and outlined the proposed actions to be implemented in 2006-2007. Members were assured that the relocation of UNOPS headquarters, its support services and its European regional office to Copenhagen, scheduled for July 2006, and the consolidation of its two regional African offices, were part of a package of strategic measures to achieve sustained financial health and to continue being a

value-adding service-provider for the United Nations. The relocation process was being planned in such a way as to minimize disruptions in day-to-day operations while providing maximum assistance to relocating and separating staff. UNOPS projected that the transformation programme would result in a $10 billion reduction in annual costs, paving the way for the gradual rebuilding of the mandated operational reserve. Noting the risks inherent to the transformation process, namely, the ability to implement in a timely and efficient manner, the ability to maintain client confidence and the preservation of staff morale, the Executive Director, a.i., recognized the importance of support from the Executive Board, the Management Coordination Committee and all staff in ensuring the success of the transformation programme. He also informed members of progress made in cleaning up and rationalizing the business portfolio.

45. Delegations commended the Executive Director, a.i., for his leadership in the conduct of the UNOPS transformation programme and concurred with much of his vision for the remainder of the process. They assured him of their support and asked to be kept abreast of progress pursuant to decision 2005/36. They encouraged UNOPS to pursue further diversification of its portfolio, including through the provision of services in emergency and post-conflict situations. The United States delegation inquired into measures being undertaken to assist locally recruited staff not contemplated by the relocation process.

46. The Executive Director, a.i., assured the Executive Board that UNOPS was sparing no effort in relocating staff in both the professional and general services categories through relocation, placement in other New York-based United Nations organizations and the provision of separation packages.

47. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/6 on the activities of UNOPS.

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

IX. Recommendations of the Board of Auditors

UNDP

48. The Director and Comptroller, Office of Finance of the Bureau of Management (BOM), introduced the follow-up report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the biennium 2002-2003 (DP/2006/13) and updated members on the steps taken by UNDP to address the recommendations – 80 in total – made by the United Nations Board of Auditors (BOA) in connection with the financial report and audited financial statements of UNDP for the 2002-2003 biennium.

49. As of January 2006, UNDP had reported the implementation rate of 55 audit recommendations, 13 of which had already been validated by BOA and the remainder of which were expected to be validated by the close of final audit in mid-2006. Save for the recommendation pertaining to the United Nations system as a whole, UNDP expected to implement all the outstanding recommendations by the end of 2006.

50. UNDP has introduced tools and processes to promote transparency in reporting and has reemphasized accountability and responsiveness to audit recommendations.

These include the implementation of the internal control framework; the Atlas data-quality dashboard, the Atlas executive snapshot; the UNDP prescriptive content user guides; a web-based audit recommendation-tracking dashboard (http://audit-dashboard.undp.org) to manage corporate audit issues; and a quality-assurance function established within BOM to analyze systemic issues arising from audit observations.

UNFPA

51. The Director, Division for Oversight Services (DOS), introduced the UNFPA report on follow-up to the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2002-2003: status of implementation of recommendations (DP/FPA/2006/1).

52. Delegations acknowledged UNFPA progress in implementing the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and welcomed the establishment of an oversight committee. Delegations encouraged UNFPA and UNOPS to follow the example of UNDP in ensuring that future reports indicated the priority and time frame for implementation of the recommendations. They asked for information about the current implementation status of Atlas; reconciliation of non-expendable equipment; review of funding mechanisms for UNFPA liability for end-of-service and post-retirement benefits; and measures to bring down travel costs. Delegations inquired if some form of public access could be envisaged for web-based tracking of implementation of audit recommendations.

53. The Director, DOS, UNFPA, agreed with the suggestion to present a summary of the status of implementation in a table and stated that UNFPA would also indicate the category of risk. Concurring with the suggestion that some form of web access be provided, he noted that time was required to set up such a system. He stated that considerable progress had been achieved in reconciliation of non-expendable equipment. He observed that the Atlas system had made a major contribution in terms of expenditure reporting and financial management in the organization. Regarding measures to reduce travel costs, he pointed to increased use of videoconferences; better travel planning to take advantage of cheaper tickets; and enhanced screening of reasons for travel. Concerning the liability for end-of-service and post-retirement benefits, the Director, Division for Management Services, noted that by January 2010 the entire United Nations system would adopt the International Public Sector Accounting Standards based on accrual accounting. Under current United Nations System Accounting Standards, UNFPA was required to disclose the total value of unfunded liability that stood at approximately $60 million at the end of December 2004. However, by 2010 UNFPA would need to record the total amount of such a liability in the financial statements, which would have a significant impact on the financial health of the organization. With respect to funding that liability, UNFPA was currently working with other United Nations organizations for a harmonized approach and taking those and other such discussions into account a proposal would be presented in the future for consideration by the Executive Board.

UNOPS

54. The Deputy Executive Director, UNOPS, introduced the UNOPS follow-up report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the biennium 2002-2003 (DP/2006/14), and briefed members on the comprehensive programme undertaken by the organization to address the main concerns reported by BOA. On the 39 recommendations made by BOA, UNOPS reported a 64 per cent

implementation rate, while 31 per cent were under implementation and 5 per cent had yet to be implemented. A risk management and oversight committee had been established to guide the Executive Director on issues of risk mitigation and internal control.

55. The Board welcomed the efforts made by management to improve transparency and managerial accountability in line with the recommendations of BOA, and called on the three organizations to strengthen management and control systems, including risk-management systems. Noting the increased scrutiny to which the United Nations system was now subject, the Board also called upon management to intensify fraud prevention and anti-corruption measures.

56. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/8: Follow-up reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the biennium 2002-2003 (UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS).

X. Report to the Economic and Social Council

57. In compliance with General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the TCPR, and in accordance with the request from Member States for greater harmonization and coordination, UNDP and UNFPA reported jointly on progress towards implementing resolution 59/250 and highlighted the level of cooperation between UNDP and UNFPA in a number of areas, both jointly and as part of UNDG. The Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA, introduced the Joint report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to the Economic and Social Council (E/2006/5). The UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnerships introduced the items specific to UNDP.

58. Delegations welcomed the first-ever joint UNDP and UNFPA report to ECOSOC and noted that the practice should continue. They appreciated the clarity and inclusiveness of the report and were pleased to note the progress made by UNDP and UNFPA in implementing General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the TCPR. One delegation stated that it would have preferred a more analytical report. Delegations were encouraged by the trend in increased contributions for both UNFPA and UNDP. Underscoring the urgent need to coordinate the activities of various United Nations organizations, delegations were pleased to note the progress achieved in the area of simplification and harmonization, as well as in gender mainstreaming. They emphasized the leading role of governments in the development process. They stated that the joint office should not result in increased administrative costs and there should be separate financial accounting by the concerned agencies. Delegations urged strengthening of the resident coordinator system as well as of the selection process.

59. The Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA, appreciated the encouraging comments from delegations and agreed that more should be done to enhance the resident coordinator selection process. He underscored that UNFPA played an active role in gender mainstreaming. He confirmed that UNFPA would continue its efforts in the area of simplification and harmonization. He noted the Fund's long involvement in and commitment to common services and the joint office model.

60. The Executive Board took note of the report and agreed to transmit it to ECOSOC, together with the Board's comments.

XI. Programming process

61. The conference room paper on cost-efficient approaches to providing programme-level data (DP/2006/CRP.2-DP/FPA/2006/CRP.1) was introduced by the UNDP MYFF team leader, who briefed members on UNDP and UNFPA reporting systems, highlighting issues and challenges that the organizations confront in presenting programme-level data. The Chief, Strategic Planning Office (SPO) UNFPA, made additional remarks.

62. The MYFF team leader alerted members to a potential divergence between the request of the Board that organization-specific programme-level data be made available to Board members and the broader United Nations harmonization and simplification process and the new international aid effectiveness principles. A series of cost-effective approaches to sharing programme-level data using the current MYFF reporting process was presented by the MYFF team leader.

63. Delegations took note of the different MYFF structures and reporting systems of UNDP and UNFPA. Emphasizing accountability and the need to report on the use of resources and results achieved, they stated that programme-level data could be provided when an old country programme was ending and a new one was about to begin, as well as at the mid-point or the end of the MYFF cycle. Delegations hoped to get a clear definition of programme-level data and added that national capacity was critical for data gathering, analysis, dissemination and use. One delegation noted that the paper could have been more daring and technical. The delegation welcomed the attention being given to outcome indicators in the preparation of the new MYFF. Delegations stated that duplication should be avoided and that there should be no increased reporting burden on countries or on UNCTs.

64. The Chief, SPO, UNFPA, stated that a review of results was provided at the end of the country programme and that revealing that data could be considered. He underscored that the MYFF cycle varied from the cycles of the country programmes; therefore sharing country programme data at the mid-point or the end of the MYFF cycle would not be a practical way to provide an accurate picture of country programme performance. In the coming months UNFPA would prepare its new MYFF and its design was currently being reviewed. Issues raised by delegations would be taken into consideration in designing the new MYFF. He added that attention was being focused on the issues of attribution and accountability, including the accountability of country offices.

65. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/9: Cost-efficient approaches to providing programme-level data.

UNFPA segment

Statement by the Executive Director

66. In her statement, the Executive Director focused on four UNFPA priorities for 2006: Follow-up to the 2005 World Summit; United Nations reform; accountability; and regionalization. She stressed the need to fully mobilize efforts and run full speed ahead in order to register success in achieving the MDGs by 2015. She underscored that world leaders had committed themselves at the World Summit to "achieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)". She stated that this was the highest level of endorsement of the critical role that reproductive health plays in the achievement of the MDGs. UNFPA welcomed the resolve of world leaders to promote gender equality and eliminate pervasive discrimination and violence against women and girls. The Executive Director underscored the importance of reproductive health commodity security (RHCS) and noted that it was a priority area for follow-up to the World Summit.

67. Other key issues that she highlighted included the following: culturally sensitive approaches to promote human rights; the new partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health; follow-up to the recommendations of the Global Task Team (GTT) on improving AIDS coordination; and the building of a coherent and transparent system of accountability for achieving results, including the constitution of an oversight committee of five independent members with expertise on audit and finance. She also drew attention to the issue of migration and noted that the UNFPA State of World Population Report for 2006 would focus on women and migration. She announced that the Secretary-General had appointed her as the Chair of the High-Level Committee on Management. She concluded by emphasizing the deep commitment of UNFPA staff members around the world to doing their utmost to promote the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

68. Delegations commended the excellent statement of the Executive Director and the work of UNFPA. They underscored the commitment made by leaders at the World Summit to achieve the goal of universal access to reproductive health by 2015: the world leaders had agreed that the aforementioned ICPD goal should be integrated in strategies to attain development goals, including the MDGs. Delegations stressed the centrality of reproductive health to poverty eradication and called on donors to increase funding towards that end. They emphasized that gender equality, HIV/AIDS and reproductive health must be at the top of the international agenda. They encouraged UNFPA commitment to and global leadership in promoting RHCS and underscored the importance of RHCS to HIV prevention. Delegations stated that implementing the GTT recommendations was critical for improving HIV/AIDS outcomes. The delegation of Pakistan appreciated the assistance provided by UNFPA in the wake of the October earthquake and noted that UNFPA with its mobile services was one of the first agencies to reach the people in the remote, disaster-stricken areas of Pakistan.

69. Underscoring the need for deeper and faster reform of the United Nations system, delegations commended the Executive Director for recognizing the need for change and for her commitment to United Nations reform and revitalization. Delegations urged that clear benchmarks be established for measuring progress, as well as targets for efficiency gains and for the number of UNFPA Resident Coordinators to be appointed in the next few years. Delegations recognized the need for more harmonized and simplified donor procedures and longer term, more assured funding for those agencies making real progress on reforms. They stressed the importance of stronger coalitions and partnerships for poverty reduction strategies, sector-wide approaches and health sector support. Delegations stated that they looked forward to working with UNFPA regarding the upcoming high-level dialogue on international migration. They were interested in learning more about UNFPA plans for regionalization. They commended the culturally sensitive approaches of UNFPA to programming, including in the area of gender-based violence.

70. Delegations were very pleased to note that in 2005 there had been 171 contributors to UNFPA. They stated that it was a clear sign of recognition of the crucial role of UNFPA in the architecture of development and in the advancement of reproductive health and rights. They underscored that for the work of the Fund to be sustainable, the ICPD Programme of Action must be enshrined in national development plans and strategies. Sweden announced that in 2006 it would contribute 400 million kroner (approximately $50 million) to UNFPA. Norway announced that it would make a multi-year pledge to UNFPA.

71. The delegation of the United States made a statement opposing the provision by the Fund of reproductive health and family planning support to China. The delegation of China made a response objecting to the statement by the United States delegation. The delegation of South Africa, speaking on behalf of members and observers of the Executive Board who were also members of the Group of 77 and China, made a strong statement of support for the work of UNFPA and underlined support for the China programme. The delegation of Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the Asian States, expressed full support for the China programme and the work of UNFPA, adding that the programme reflected the ICPD Programme of Action and fit national needs. Numerous other delegations took the floor to support the work of UNFPA, including in China, and the commitment of the Fund to the ICPD agenda and to achieving the MDGs.

72. The Executive Director thanked the delegations for their support and guidance, including delegations that had announced contributions to UNFPA. She appreciated that delegations had underscored the centrality of reproductive health to poverty eradication and achieving the MDGs. She noted that the challenge was how to operationalize the commitment made at the World Summit to ensure universal access to reproductive health by 2015. She reiterated her commitment to ensuring RHCS and stated that without commodities there could be no programme. Concerning the Global Programme for RHCS, she noted that $150 million was needed for the next four years. She underlined that in addition to providing commodities it was essential to build capacity, including in such areas as logistics management, procurement and data systems. She was pleased that a number of countries were including RHCS in their national budgets. Recalling the Stockholm call to action, she stressed the highly important role of finance ministers in ensuring financing for reproductive health.

73. The Executive Director reaffirmed the commitment of UNFPA to following up on the GTT recommendations, including with regard to the division of labour among agencies. She stated that UNFPA was a very active co-sponsor of UNAIDS. Regarding international migration, she underscored the support of the Fund for the partnership and noted the ongoing technical work of UNFPA through its Technical Support Division, as well as its geographical divisions. She highlighted the commitment of the Fund to results-based management and underscored the importance of achieving results at the country level: it was crucial that countries were able to have clear results as an outcome of UNFPA assistance. Concerning regionalization, she noted that it was a work in progress and UNFPA would dialogue with the Executive Board members on the subject. At present, a functional analysis was under way and the findings would help UNFPA to develop models and options. Further information on regionalization would be provided at the annual session of the Board.

74. She thanked the delegations for their positive comments on the UNFPA commitment and contribution to United Nations reform. She announced that she would be amending the job description of the Deputy Executive Director (Management) to include responsibilities pertaining to United Nations reform. She noted that the UNFPA task force on United Nations reform would, inter alia, provide benchmarks to measure progress. She underscored the crucial role of countries in ensuring that the ICPD agenda survived. Noting that it was a "sensitive" agenda, she emphasized that UNFPA played a critical role in bringing international attention to the ICPD agenda. The Executive Director concluded by expressing her special thanks and appreciation to Mr. Francois Rohner, Switzerland, who would be departing from the Board. In particular, she thanked him for his wisdom, his deep understanding of and commitment to development work, and his strong support for culturally sensitive programming.

XII. Country programmes and related matters

75. The Executive Board approved the following 19 country programmes on a no-objection basis: Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Ghana, Namibia, Swaziland, Uganda, Albania, Georgia, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Turkey, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Viet Nam and Peru.

76. Following the approval of the 19 country programmes, numerous delegations made a strong statement of support with regard to the work of UNFPA in China. Delegations stated that UNFPA was a "force for good" by playing a crucial and catalytic role through its work in China, particularly in the selected counties. Delegations aligned themselves with an earlier statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. They emphasized that the China programme successfully demonstrated that a client-oriented quality of care approach to reproductive health and family planning was a viable alternative to a target-driven administrative system.

77. In a common statement, several delegations stated: "We believe that progress in reform can be enhanced through constructive engagement and support – exactly of the type UNFPA provides...". Delegations went on to state unequivocally that "UNFPA's activities in China, as in the rest of the world, are in strict conformity

with the unanimously adopted Programme of Action of the ICPD, and play a key role in supporting our common endeavour: the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. Our delegations believe UNFPA deserves strong support to pursue these activities – thereby contributing to reaching the MDGs, particularly those related to HIV/AIDS, maternal health and child mortality. We therefore support the country programme in China".

78. Referring to the Cape Verde common country programme, one delegation urged UNFPA to maintain accountability to the Executive Board, including for budgeting, financial and programmatic reporting, and evaluation. The delegations of Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde and China thanked the Board for approving their country programmes.

XIII. Other matters

Post-conflict peacebuilding: role of UNDP and UNFPA in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo

79. The President of the Board introduced the item, highlighting the emerging understanding of the interconnectedness between peace and development as reaffirmed in the report of the Secretary General *In Larger Freedom* and noting the role of development agencies in strengthening national capacities to manage and settle disputes. Citing the example of countries in sub-Saharan Africa that have been affected by complex emergencies and the rampant spread of HIV/AIDS, the President illustrated how such emergencies undermine the achievement of the MDGs.

Angola

80. The Minister of Planning of the Republic of Angola briefed members on the economic, physical and social impact of the 27-year conflict that had plagued the country until 2002; described the challenges and opportunities of the post-conflict years; and outlined the policies of her Government towards re-establishing basic social services and economic rehabilitation.

81. The President of the Angolan Network of AIDS Service Organizations presented a demographic profile of the country and an overview of the HIV/AIDS pandemic there, detailing the present and desired role of civil society organizations in the multi-stakeholder fight against HIV/AIDS.

82. During the discussion, delegations were pleased to note the number of NGOs working in Angola in the fight against HIV/AIDS and called on the international community to support efforts to fight the epidemic in the country in a coordinated manner. Delegations emphasized the need to take into account the regional and sub-regional dimensions of the AIDS pandemic. The delegation of Sweden announced that it was preparing to support, in the amount of $2 million over three years, an HIV/AIDS programme in Angola, directed to youth, designed by the provincial government in Luanda and UNFPA.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

83. The Minister for Women's Affairs and Family, Democratic Republic of the Congo, made a presentation on sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response towards peace consolidation. The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General made a presentation on the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

84. Delegations noted that the discussion on peacebuilding in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was very timely, and they welcomed the steps taken by the Government to address the challenges facing the country. They emphasized that international support was essential to achieving progress on the path to peace, and were pleased to note the efforts of UNDP and UNFPA to support peacebuilding. They underscored the need to build institutions that could deliver services to the people. Delegations appreciated the candour and frankness of the panellists in delineating the problems confronting the country, including the problem of sexual and gender-based violence. Delegations underscored the resilience of women, who were in the forefront of building a better future in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

85. The delegation of Belgium stated that it was proud to support the joint programme against sexual and gender-based violence and noted that it was fundamental to peacebuilding. The delegation thanked the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for its commitment and leadership and praised UNFPA for its work in driving the issue. The delegation commended the lead role of UNFPA in managing the joint programme, stating that bringing the whole United Nations family together in one programme was no small feat. The delegation emphasized that an essential element of United Nations reform was to enhance field effectiveness. The delegation encouraged UNFPA to compile and share lessons learned from the joint programme.

Additional events

86. Parallel to the Executive Board session, UNDP organized an exhibit on gender mainstreaming in UNDP to showcase the often-unheralded country offices successes in gender mainstreaming, as well as a working luncheon on the UNDAF process in Madagascar attended by senior Government officials, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the UNFPA Resident Representative.

Joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP

Capacity-building and capacity development

87. The UNICEF Executive Director introduced the item and background paper. She emphasized the need to integrate capacity-strengthening objectives in national development strategies towards achievement of the MDGs. The background paper drew on ongoing work of the UNDG Executive Committee and preliminary outputs of the UNDG working group on capacity development. The paper provided examples of common initiatives by United Nations organizations and ideas on how they could respond better to national needs.

88. The Deputy Permanent Secretary, Public Service Management, Office of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, spoke of his country's experience and the considerable support of the United Nations system. Potential areas for further support included the national development strategy and policy advice on cross-sectoral issues. Challenges for the United Nations centred on balancing collaborative and joint programming; maximizing prospects for participation of various offices; and addressing bureaucratic operating modalities.

89. The UNICEF Representative in the United Republic of Tanzania spoke on behalf of the UNCT. Discussing the United Nations role, he said that the establishment of the Tanzania Socio-Economic Database, based on DevInfo, and its development into an Internet-based tool for internalizing data, were concrete examples of support that helped not only to monitor poverty but also to develop poverty reduction plans. The United Nations system needed to provide world-class capacity-development expertise; streamline its procedures; strengthen its policies, tools and procedures for participation in sectoral programmes; and optimize its role regarding general budget support.

90. Delegations emphasized the critical role of the United Nations in capacity development. A holistic approach to capacity development should include attention to higher education, wage policy and other incentives, and to reversing the 'brain drain', with the United Nations playing a strategic role. The background paper should be revised for the annual session of the Economic and Social Council to show the progress made by the United Nations; indicate the common tools and staff profiles for support to capacity development; and provide a clear plan of action, with benchmarks.

91. Speakers asked how capacity development would be integrated into programming and called for closer collaboration with the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Bank. Information was requested in several areas: challenges, such as adapting to the changing environment; lessons learned; unified support by United Nations agencies on the ground, moving from project to sectoral and other harmonized approaches; how the United Nations would be at the centre of capacity development reform; and how it would promote South-South cooperation.

92. Several delegates requested a more strategic report that covered achievements and constraints, gender issues, and a greater analysis of underlying challenges and practical measures. There should be more focus on results, especially regarding the MDGs; institutional capacity development, which the United Nations was best

suited to address; lessons learned; capacity development in fragile States; and improved performance and results, especially regarding support for reform of public procurement and financial systems.

Transition from relief to development, focusing on natural disasters

93. The President of the WFP Executive Board, stressing the importance of national leadership in the transition agenda, welcomed the participation of the Representative of the Government of Pakistan, and the Representative of the UNCT in Pakistan at the Joint Meeting.

94. The Representative of the Government of Pakistan discussed the necessity of a coherent governmental role in the coordination of both the relief and recovery stages of response. He urged that in responding to natural disasters particular attention be paid to vulnerable people, who are often the worst affected. He also suggested that insufficient preparedness for natural disasters was a major stumbling block to ensuring the quickest possible transition from relief to development.

95. The WFP Senior Deputy Executive Director welcomed the fact that it is now well established that 'transition' follows both conflicts and natural disasters. Accordingly, UNDG agencies – through the UNDG Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA) Working Group and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) clusters in particular – were building tools and capacity to help UNCTs.

96. The Representative of the UNCT in Pakistan described the newly established IASC cluster system and its successes in the Pakistan earthquake response. A country-based early recovery cluster convened in Pakistan and produced a framework to make transition a conscious part of the UNCT emergency response. One of the important contributions of the cluster was to support spontaneous recovery efforts from the early days of the emergency response. The Representative stressed that IASC clusters should serve as collective decision-making bodies rather than meetings that push parochial interests. Important lessons learned included the need for Government leadership and coordination, the success in linking emergency response to longer-term transition and development strategies, and the need to ensure that surge capacity is sustained beyond immediate relief and is extended to the early recovery and transition periods as well.

97. Questions and discussion with delegations revolved around several key issues:

(a) *Protection.* Delegations welcomed the protection dimensions after natural disasters described in the background paper and encouraged more explicit attention to vulnerable groups; the social impact of natural disasters; the gender-related effects of disasters; reproductive health; and children and orphans.

(b) *Post-disaster needs assessment framework.* The UNDG/ECHA Working Group was encouraged to continue working towards a comprehensive framework that would complement the IASC cluster exercise and address gaps such as property and land rights, protection, and gender.

(c) *Lessons learned.* Delegations encouraged UNDG to capture lessons learned in transition responses, perhaps through the upcoming real-time evaluation, to ensure they inform future guidance.

(d) *Inclusiveness.* UNDG was urged to continue making efforts to ensure that NGOs, the World Bank and other international financial institutions are brought fully into common, nationally-led transition responses.

(e) *National leadership.* Delegations encouraged national leadership, recognizing the daunting capacity-building implications in the poorest countries facing transition challenges.

(f) *Effective coordination and funding.* Delegations recognized the need to provide systematic coordination support to resident coordinators from the onset of a natural disaster to help them to coordinate early recovery activities and United Nations system interventions.

HIV/AIDS: Follow-up to the recommendations of the Global Task Team

98. The item was chaired and introduced by the President, UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board. The UNDP Administrator spoke on behalf of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, providing updates on follow-up to the Global Task Team process and emphasizing links with United Nations reform efforts. Country-level experiences were presented by the Executive Secretary of the National Council on the Fight Against AIDS, Mali, and by the UNFPA Representative and Chair, United Nations theme group on HIV/AIDS, Jamaica. The Director of Country and Regional Support, UNAIDS, provided an assessment of progress and challenges in implementing the recommendations.

99. The panellists highlighted progress in several areas, including the division of labour among UNAIDS co-sponsors; establishment of joint United Nations teams on AIDS at the country-level; the Global Joint Problem-Solving and Implementation Support Team; and mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into poverty reduction strategy papers. Updates were provided on efforts to internalize the Global Task Team recommendations in several countries, and panellists noted that the recommendations were helping to reinforce the 'three ones' principles for coordination of national responses and to contribute to United Nations reform efforts. However, to ensure effective support to national responses, management arrangements, planning, reporting and accountability should be streamlined at all levels to avoid coordination bottlenecks and complex support structures. From a programme county perspective, in addition to good management at the country level, a more effective response would require strengthening of national capacity, pragmatic actions and confidence in partners.

100. Delegations welcomed the presentations and the spirit of cooperation and collaboration among the four organizations. They expressed support for the Global Task Team process and commended the progress made in advancing implementation of the recommendations. Delegations applauded the establishment of the UNAIDS division of labour, and acknowledged the importance of the lead roles of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP. It was noted that further discussions were required at the country level to ensure that the lead agency role would take into account co-sponsor experience and capacity to deliver. The four agencies were urged to continue to strengthen mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS within the work of their organizations.

101. Delegations welcomed the establishment of joint United Nations teams on AIDS and stated that these should help to improve coherence and coordination of the response at country-level, as well as accountability of individual agencies. The

UNAIDS secretariat and UNDG were encouraged to guide the process at the country level. Delegations emphasized that simplification of processes and procedures should remain a priority and cautioned against expansion of coordination mechanisms. In underscoring that HIV/ADS remained a critical emergency and development challenge, delegations recognized that national leadership and ownership were vital to implementing effective responses. The need to ensure availability of resources to support country and regional efforts was highlighted, in addition to human resource capacity challenges and issues of vulnerability, human rights and gender.

102. Delegations emphasized that commitment and accountability for advancing the Global Task Team recommendations should come from all stakeholders, including national governments, donors and the United Nations system. They underscored that successful implementation depended on the full partnership of all key actors to ensure alignment, simplification and harmonization for effective action and results at the country level.

Simplification and harmonization, with a special focus on the programming process

103. The President, UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, chaired the session and introduced the item. The Executive Director, UNFPA, made a presentation on behalf of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP. The Permanent Representative of Cape Verde and the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Representative of the United Nations funds and programmes, Cape Verde, also made presentations.

104. The UNFPA Executive Director highlighted the proposals from the UNDG Executive Committee on enhancing the alignment of the analytical work of the United Nations system with national processes; reducing the burden of the programme preparation process; and increasing national ownership. The ideas would be further discussed with Member States and national partners in preparing a jointly elaborated paper for the respective Boards in June.

105. Concerning the common country programme process in Cape Verde, the Permanent Representative noted that the experience of the Government had been very positive and had largely met the need to ensure that the United Nations programme responded to national priorities, including the MDGs. The programme had allowed alignment with the National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction and had contributed to improved coordination and management of the programming process.

106. The United Nations Representative for Cape Verde underscored the positive experience from the UNCT perspective, both in terms of adhering to the principles for simplification and responding to the needs of the Government. She noted the importance of regional and headquarters support and guidance in new approaches, and delineated lessons that could be utilized elsewhere.

107. Delegations appreciated the presentations and broadly welcomed the ideas contained in the background document with regard to the programme preparation and approval process. They commended the funds and programmes for taking forward the Paris aid effectiveness agenda and implementing the TCPR resolution. They were pleased to learn about the common country programme process and joint office model in Cape Verde.

108. Delegations underscored the critical importance of national leadership, ownership and capacity. They emphasized the need to ensure the effective involvement of specialized agencies and for agency mandates to remain responsive to national priorities and needs. Transparency and accountability for results and resources should be ensured in any new processes; transaction costs reduced; and efficiency and effectiveness increased. Delegations envisaged the need to enhance the capacity and role of the Resident Coordinator and UNCTs, including the ability to facilitate effective evaluation.

109. Delegations noted that the programming process proposals had implications for the governance mechanisms and working methods of the Executive Boards. While most delegations took a positive view of shortening the time frame for approval, more discussion was needed on the nature of new Board procedures.

110. Regarding the Cape Verde experience, delegations asked how non-resident and specialized agencies would be involved. Inquiring about the unified budget, they urged further harmonizing of budgetary matters, while maintaining clear accountability. It was noted that existing procedures for overall programme funds remained in place, and that UNDG would continue to monitor programme impact in Cape Verde. UNDG was reviewing how to move forward on other joint offices.

Part two
Annual session

Held in Geneva from 12 to 23 June 2006

I. Organizational matters

1. The annual session 2006 of the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA met from 12 to 23 June in Geneva. At the session, the Executive Board approved the agenda and work plan for its annual session 2006, as orally amended, and the report on the first regular session 2006 (DP/2006/15).

2. The Executive Board adopted 17 decisions, including decision 2006/25 on improving the working methods of the Executive Board, and the overview of decisions. The compendium of decisions adopted is available on the Executive Board Secretariat web site at www.undp.org/execbrd.

3. The Executive Board agreed to the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board in 2006 and 2007:

Second regular session 2006:	11 to 15 September 2006
First regular session 2007:	19 to 26 January 2007
Annual session 2007:	12 to 22 June 2007
Second regular session 2007:	10 to 14 September 2007

Statement by the Administrator

4. In his statement to the Executive Board, the Administrator recalled the major events that have shaped the international aid environment since he took office. He highlighted the key strategic issues facing UNDP and the work of the High Level Panel on United Nations system-wide coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment, noting that:

(a) UNDP has sought to play a constructive role in the main events shaping the international development environment since the 2005 World Summit, a period that has witnessed the establishment of two new United Nations bodies – the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council – and large-scale, concerted international responses in support of regions affected by natural disasters, as well as substantial increases in official development assistance (ODA) fuelled by major debt-relief operations;

(b) The benefits of rapid global economic growth have been unevenly distributed, and world leaders been unable to reach consensus on a development-oriented round of multilateral trade talks;

(c) Significant internal change has taken place within UNDP through, inter alia, the appointment of new senior staff, the strengthening of internal oversight and risk-management systems in support of greater transparency and accountability, and a review of the UNDP evaluation policy;

(d) The total income of UNDP and its associated funds has increased 17 per cent in nominal terms. The growth of non-core resources to UNDP has outpaced core growth, resulting in a sub-optimal ratio between those resources that enable UNDP to fulfil its mandate effectively and flexibly and those that are earmarked to different degrees and are thus complementary in nature; and

(e) Differing yet complementary facets of the UNDP mission have evidenced two apparent sources of tension: the need to anchor results-oriented operational activities in standard-setting normative work, allowing the former, in turn, to inform

the latter; and the imperative to provide targeted, timely support in post-crisis situations without losing sight of long-term capacity-development objectives.

The full text of the statement is available at http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/june-2006/statement-dervis-exec-20060619.en?categoryID=593043&lang=en.

5. Delegations thanked the Administrator for the informative statement and insight into the role of UNDP within the broader context of United Nations reform, noting, with regard to the latter, that the harmonization and simplification agenda was ultimately driven by the desire to improve aid effectiveness and deliver development results. Some delegations stressed the demand for closer collaboration at the country level between the various members of the United Nations family present, while others called for greater national ownership and specificity in defining the appropriate model of collaboration between United Nations entities at the country level.

6. Delegations characterized the upward trend in resources entrusted to UNDP as encouraging, while taking due note of the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources.

UNFPA segment

II. Annual report of the Executive Director

7. The Executive Director began her statement by expressing condolences at the untimely passing away of Dr. Lee Jong-Wook, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). She went on to focus on the following key issues: the follow-up to the 2005 World Summit and the recent HIV/AIDS review meeting; achieving Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5; reproductive health commodity security; population and development; United Nations reform; UNFPA financial resources; regionalization; and accountability. The full statement is available on the UNFPA website at http://www.unfpa.org/exbrd.

8. Delegations praised the Executive Director for her excellent and inspiring statement and for her visionary leadership. They expressed strong support and appreciation for the work of UNFPA and were pleased to note the substantial gains that UNFPA had made in 2005, including the expansion of its donor base to 172 donors. They commended UNFPA efforts to advance the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and achieve the MDGs and underscored the centrality of reproductive health and rights to poverty reduction. They appreciated the Fund's efforts to operationalize the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015. They applauded UNFPA for taking the lead in ensuring that population dynamics, reproductive health and gender were incorporated in national development strategies. They commended the Fund's leadership role in saving women's lives and protecting their health rights. They called for an increasing role for UNFPA in South-South cooperation, and in addressing international migration issues, including the feminization of migration.

9. They stressed the importance of underscoring reproductive health and HIV/AIDS linkages. They applauded the Fund's leadership in the area of HIV/AIDS

and encouraged UNFPA to continue working with other agencies at global and country levels to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the Global Task Team (GTT), including an appropriate division of labour among the agencies. Delegations welcomed the UNFPA global programme to enhance reproductive health commodity security (RHCS) noting that it would help to ensure more long-term and stable funding for reproductive health supplies. They were pleased to note the Fund's commitment to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, and gender-based violence. They asked what could be done to get a higher profile for UNFPA in the United Nations system-wide approach to maternal health. One delegation observed that more research should be undertaken on the social consequences of maternal mortality. Delegations commended the new Partnership on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and the Fund's Campaign to End Fistula.

10. Delegations commended the work of UNFPA in emergency and humanitarian situations, including in the aftermath of the tsunami and the earthquake in Pakistan. They noted the strong contribution of UNFPA in promoting reproductive health and addressing issues of gender equality and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. They asked about the Fund's measures to strengthen human resources, partnerships and funding for humanitarian response.

11. Delegations underscored the importance of UNFPA using its comparative advantage in sector-wide approaches (SWAps), poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs) and health sector reform. They encouraged UNFPA to work upstream and to take a more leading and strategic role in national processes and policy dialogue on reproductive health and rights. They commended the Fund's work in data collection and the support it provided for censuses.

12. Delegations were interested to learn that regionalization would enable UNFPA to become a stronger, more field-focused organization. They hoped that the upcoming informal briefing would provide information on regionalization plans, options, costs and benefits. While noting that regionalization efforts should be synchronized with other agencies, one delegation invited UNFPA to open a regional office in its country.

13. Delegations praised UNFPA for its active and constructive role in United Nations reform and the emphasis the Fund placed on promoting national ownership and leadership. They encouraged the Fund's engagement with the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence. They pointed out that the triennial comprehensive policy review (TCPR) was the foundation of United Nations reform. They inquired about the experience with the joint office model. One delegation noted that there were variations in United Nations staff competencies and skills.

14. Delegations were pleased to note that in 2005 UNFPA had achieved its highest-ever level of contributions. They underscored that core resources were the bedrock of UNFPA and stressed that non-core resources should not substitute for core resources. Delegations called on donors to increase their core contributions to UNFPA. Norway announced that it would increase its contribution of regular resources to UNFPA by $12 million, i.e., 25 per cent in 2007. Sweden noted that its core contribution to UNFPA was over $50 million. Switzerland stated that it planned to do multi-year pledging.

15. Delegations expressed strong support for the Fund's commitment to results-based management and programming and called for better baseline data and the

measurement of results. They welcomed the Fund's increased attention to accountability. They encouraged UNFPA to have a comprehensive and inclusive process in developing the new medium-term strategic plan (MTSP). They urged UNFPA to press for significant change at the country level and underscored the importance of attaining tangible results and visibility and avoiding duplication and fragmentation of efforts. Numerous delegations expressed appreciation for the support UNFPA had provided to their countries.

16. The Executive Director thanked the Executive Board members for their strong support and useful comments. She noted that UNFPA had been the only United Nations agency supporting the development of national demographic and social databases for development, census and surveys, particularly national population censuses. Investments in the area of data for development were crucial, both with regard to strengthening human resources and increasing the quality and coverage of data sources. UNFPA was strongly advocating for increased investments in capacity-building and priority was given to South-South initiatives. She noted that UNFPA was giving increased attention to migration and development issues. In 2006, the Fund's flagship annual publication, the State of World Population, would focus on migration and women.

17. Concerning maternal health, she noted that UNFPA had adopted a much more focused strategy to provide support to Governments to move forward in terms of maternal mortality and morbidity and was focusing on the three most effective interventions: skilled attendance at birth, family planning and emergency obstetric care. Agreeing with the need for a more coherent United Nations approach for improving maternal health, she noted that UNFPA was focusing on: (a) working within coalitions that promote maternal health, for example, the new Partnership on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health; (b) working through bilateral discussions and agreements with sister agencies, i.e., strategic partnerships, for example, with WHO, UNICEF and the World Bank; (c) working through the national processes to strengthen participation in SWAps and PRSPs to promote maternal health, for example the PRSPs in African countries and the road maps to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality; (d) promoting South-South cooperation; and (e) developing the Fund's own capacity as an organization through training and the provision of policies, guidelines and knowledge assets, for example, for SWAps.

18. She noted that the High-level meeting on HIV/AIDS had provided a political platform to link sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS, and to further engage in dialogue with Governments. She stated that UNFPA would follow-up on national targets to meet prevention, treatment, care and support. UNFPA was actively promoting the implementation of GTT recommendations at the country level as a member of the UNAIDS co-sponsoring organizations. In many countries, the UNFPA Representative was the chair of the United Nations theme group on HIV.

19. The Executive Director stated that UNFPA would work closely with the Reproductive Health Supply Coalition, including to plan the financing of RHCS. A new Global Programme to Enhance Reproductive Commodity Security, aimed at strengthening national capacities in projecting needs for reproductive health and other health commodities and planning for sustainable flow of commodities; strengthening and/or establishing national logistic management systems; and convincing Governments to have a budget line in the Ministries of Health to allocate national resources for commodities. Concerning humanitarian assistance she noted

that UNFPA had learned a great deal from its previous experience and was building a knowledge base and capacity for quick response. The Fund's rapid response had been recognized in the tsunami-affected countries and in Pakistan after the earthquake. She observed that UNFPA needed to further build its human resource capacity, both in terms of quantity and quality.

20. She stated that regionalization would help provide greater integration, efficiency, effectiveness between programme management and technical assistance, by bringing the two areas together. That should result in a more coordinated and coherent support of country offices. She underscored that UNFPA had followed a participatory process in exploring options for regionalization. UNFPA expected to present the financial implications of regionalization to the Executive Board in January 2007.

21. She thanked delegations for appreciating the Fund's active role in United Nations reform. She emphasized that UNFPA was guided by and firmly committed to the TCPR and its implementation. The emphasis of the reform and of UNFPA was improving delivery and results at the country level. She underscored that reform in the area of development was about national leadership, ownership and capacity - building. She emphasized that particular vigilance was needed to ensure that the 'One United Nations' programme was inclusive and integrated the various development agendas, including the ICPD agenda, into its strategic framework and activities. She added that UNFPA would require adequate human resources to provide substantive and sustained engagement in United Nations reform. Regarding the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence, she informed that UNFPA supported the work of the Panel, especially the work on the Resident Coordinator system. UNFPA was also providing leadership in the area of business practices, building on the Executive Director's role as the Chair of the High-level Committee on Management.

22. Concerning the Joint Office Model, she noted that the first one was in Cape Verde and it had gone 'live' in January 2006. Thus, it was too early to assess impact. Nevertheless, some quick lessons could be drawn as to what would be needed for the joint office, namely: strong commitment of the national Government; strong commitment by the United Nations system; advance preparation of many detailed issues of procedures, common services, common systems, common premises, staffing and others; and assurance that all mandates were well articulated in a coherent national programme and that they were well addressed.

23. Regarding the MTSP, she stated that UNFPA was facing challenges regarding baseline data for measurement of programme impact, evidence-based reporting and attribution of results. Those issues were at the centre of the Fund's current work in developing the MTSP, 2008-2011. UNFPA was aiming to ensure that the MTSP formed the basis for the Fund's accountability for its performance. Clarity was required regarding the role UNFPA was expected to play at each level of development to support the ICPD mandate. She underscored that the challenge was to balance the Fund's role as global custodian of the ICPD and working upstream in policy dialogues with the need to demonstrate real value added on the ground where actual action took place and where change was witnessed clearly. She welcomed the guidance of the Executive Board.

24. Regarding human resources and visibility at country level, she observed that like all institutions UNFPA faced the situation of variations in staff competencies

and skills. That explained the uneven visibility of UNFPA at the country level, as well as the uneven quality of programme implementation. She assured the Executive Board that the Fund was addressing this challenge. She noted that the Fund's human resource strategy was competency based and UNFPA had invested heavily in staff training. She added that upstream dialogue was not sufficient due to the very sensitive and personal issues with which UNFPA had to deal. In fact it was necessary to work at two levels: national upstream dialogues for policies, laws, resource allocations; and at the community level through local partners to mobilize the community and sensitize them to the importance of implementing the programmes being supported by the government.

III. Funding commitments to UNFPA

25. The Chief, Resource Mobilization Branch (RMB), introduced the report on funding commitments (DP/FPA/2006/3) and provided an update on the UNFPA income forecast as of 5 June 2006.

26. Delegations appreciated the lucid and informative report and were pleased to note the increase in UNFPA regular and other resources in 2005 and the increase in the number of donors to 172. They were also pleased to note the increase in multi-year pledges. They noted that these increases reflected the hard work and commitment of UNFPA and the trust and confidence placed in it by the international community. They underscored the need for additional core resources, which were the bedrock of UNFPA. Furthermore, they emphasized the need to increase the predictability of resources and stressed that non-core resources should not be a substitute for core resources.

27. Delegations agreed with the point made in the report that increased resources to UNFPA would enable it to expand its assistance to countries in meeting the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Millennium Declaration, particularly with regard to maternal health and HIV/AIDS. Noting that 94 per cent of the Fund's regular resources were provided by 17 major donors, delegations encouraged UNFPA to broaden and deepen its donor base. Some delegations expressed concern about the impact of fluctuating exchange rates on contributions. Delegations urged UNFPA to address the issue of upward trends in contributions being vulnerable to exchange rate fluctuations and wondered if any policy could be developed to stabilize the situation. One delegation asked that future reports provide data on increases in real terms. One delegation asked about how UNFPA planned to increase and sustain thematic funds in the future.

28. The Chief, RMB, thanked the Executive Board members for the trust and confidence placed in UNFPA. Regarding the conversion of pledges into dollar amounts, he explained that the United Nations exchange rate applied was the one prevailing at the time the contribution was received. Given the impact of exchange rate fluctuations on contributions, he stated that it was all the more reason to indicate contributions in national currency terms. Concerning thematic funds, he noted that at present UNFPA had two thematic funds and they provided resources to address key issues for which there were insufficient core resources. He added that UNFPA would look into how to address the issue of the impact of fluctuating exchange rates.

29. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/12: Annual report of the Executive Director for 2005 and funding commitments to UNFPA.

IV. Country programmes and related matters

30. The Executive Board had before it 11 draft country programme documents; 13 programme extensions; and a report on the special programme of assistance to Myanmar. Introductory statements were made by the Deputy Executive Director (Programme) and the directors of the Africa Division; the Asia and the Pacific Division (APD), the Division for Arab States, Europe and Central Asia (DASECA); and the Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LACD).

Africa

31. Delegations appreciated that UNFPA-supported country programmes were aligned with national development frameworks and welcomed the Fund's efforts to participate in sector-wide approaches and direct budget support. Delegations noted the challenges faced by Ethiopia, including high maternal mortality. They recognized the work of UNFPA in addressing child marriage. They underscored the need to address such issues as male involvement; and the lack of reproductive health commodities in rural areas. Some delegations noted that greater emphasis should be placed on working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Ethiopia and in Sao Tome and Principe. They asked how the work of UNFPA aligned with that of other organizations and stated that the Mozambique country programme offered a good example of alignment. They commended UNFPA for supporting HIV-prevention strategies focusing on out-of-school youth in Mozambique and underlined the need for interventions that respond to local needs and social and cultural patterns. While appreciating the Fund's role in combating HIV, they expressed concern about the feminization of the HIV epidemic in Mozambique and Guinea. Noting the unavailability of contraceptives in Guinea, they commended UNFPA efforts to develop a national procurement plan.

32. Delegations appreciated the Fund's enhanced participation in joint programming. Regarding pooled funding in Mozambique, one delegation asked what procedures would be used to track which agency's funds were used for which activities. One delegation underscored the importance of utilizing a human rights approach in elaborating the country programmes. One delegation stated that in the case of programme extensions the reason for the extension should be identified. The delegation added that it was surprised that the countries whose programmes were being considered were not present and suggested that in the future their participation should be ensured.

33. The Director, Africa Division, noted that UNFPA had advocated with the concerned Governments regarding the involvement of NGOs and civil society organizations, including faith-based organizations. The Fund concurred with the need to emphasize male involvement in the Ethiopia programme. Noting the scaling up of the HIV/AIDS programme in Mozambique to address the needs of young people, she pointed out that efforts were under way to address the feminization of the epidemic. Concerning pooled funding, she stated that through the UNDAF results and resources matrix it was easy to track the activities and resources of each agency. She

noted that such tracking would be more difficult under direct budget support. She indicated that she was available to address any specific issues bilaterally.

Arab States, Europe and Central Asia

34. Delegations expressed concern about the high rates of adolescent pregnancies, abortion and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in Moldova, as well as about the trafficking of women and girls; and migration issues. Regarding the programme for Egypt, they were pleased to note that UNFPA planned to strengthen partnerships with Government and civil society to combat gender-based violence. They agreed that it was important to involve Egyptian religious leaders on such issues as adolescent reproductive health care and HIV prevention. Delegations were pleased that UNFPA would work with faith-based organizations in the Syrian Arab Republic to promote reproductive health. They underscored the importance of promoting the rights of women and girls, and eliminating gender-based violence. Delegations were concerned about the rapid rise in HIV prevalence among women in Morocco. Noting that mention had not been made of the work of other bilateral and multilateral donors, they urged UNFPA to avoid duplication of programme efforts. The delegation of Morocco appreciated the support received from UNFPA and stated that the country programme had been drawn up in close consultation with the Government and other development partners.

35. Delegations noted that the Tunisia country programme was well designed. They added that it would be useful to have more recent demographic and health-related information. Delegations stated that the focus areas of the Yemen country programme were appropriate. They expressed concern regarding Yemen's high maternal mortality ratio and recommended adding neonatal care to emergency obstetric care. One delegation asked about the extent to which the human rights strategy had been used in elaborating the country programmes.

36. The Director, DASECA, took note of the useful comments and assured the Executive Board that they would be transmitted to the concerned countries. He thanked the Board members for their support. He stated that in every UNFPA-supported programme the Fund took a human rights approach. He concurred that trafficking and high rates of HIV, STIs and abortion in Moldova were issues of concern that UNFPA was working to address. He added that the Fund was also addressing migration issues. He noted that in Egypt, Morocco and other countries the Fund was indeed working with faith-based organizations and other development partners.

Asia and the Pacific

37. Delegations commended Thailand's progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and its success in reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and addressing the issue of ageing. One delegation stated that it would like to work closely with UNFPA in Thailand. The delegation of Thailand expressed deep appreciation for UNFPA support, including in the aftermath of the tsunami, and stated that collaboration between Thailand and UNFPA had evolved to meet the changing needs in the areas of population and development, including maternal and child health, family planning, gender equity, migration and ageing. Delegations were pleased that the UNFPA programme in Myanmar was designed to meet the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable segments of the population. They also noted the Fund's efforts to create community support groups, thereby training civil society actors to serve their communities. One delegation asked about the country's increasingly restrictive environment and its impact on UNFPA activities.

38. The Director, APD, thanked the delegations for their support and expressed appreciation for the kind words of the delegation of Thailand regarding the work of UNFPA. He welcomed the offer by another delegation to work closely with UNFPA. The UNFPA Representative in Myanmar thanked the Executive Board members for their support. He noted that he had not seen any attempt on the part of the Government to impede the activities of UNFPA. He observed that in addressing the issue of insufficient human resources in relation to midwives, who were the main beneficiaries of UNFPA-supported training, efforts were being made to coordinate training programmes more efficiently. He added that UNFPA would present a proposal for a future programme to the Board at the Second regular session.

Latin America and the Caribbean

39. One delegation while stating that as a middle income country it was suffering from diminishing levels of assistance, asked how it might qualify for further assistance. It added that additional information should be provided in the documents on programme extensions.

40. The Director, LACD, elaborated on the UNFPA resource allocation system with its classification of countries into categories A, B, C and O based on specific criteria/indicators measuring a country's closeness to or distance from achieving the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). She noted that category A countries were regarded as high priority countries as they were the furthest from achieving ICPD goals. Thus, group A received the largest percentage of UNFPA programme resources. She noted that Argentina did not have a country programme, however due to the economic crisis in the country, UNFPA had opened a small office in the country with a liaison officer who was channelling funds to Argentina.

41. The Executive Board took note of the following draft country programmes and the comments made thereon: Ethiopia, Guinea, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe; Egypt, Republic of Moldova, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen; and Thailand. The Board also took note of the programme extensions for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda and Togo; Lebanon and Sudan; Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka; and the report on the special programme of assistance to Myanmar: and Haiti, Mexico and Nicaragua.

V. Evaluation

42. The Director, Division for Oversight Services (DOS) introduced the periodic report on evaluation (DP/FPA/2006/5).

43. Several delegations commended the positive trends in UNFPA evaluations, including the growing involvement of national counterparts in planning, monitoring and evaluation activities; and the increasing number of country offices with evaluation officers, as well as monitoring and evaluation systems. Delegations emphasized that close collaboration with national counterparts was critical and urged UNFPA to further pursue joint evaluation work with national authorities and other development partners, including with respect to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). In underscoring the importance of close consultation with national Governments, delegations urged that assistance be provided to develop national evaluation capacity. In that regard, they noted the need

for additional resources to disseminate evaluation information, including evaluation tools and instruments, results and lessons learned. Noting the potential for improvement, delegations hoped that compliance with UNFPA evaluation guidelines for countries ending their country programmes would increase. Delegations also encouraged UNFPA to continue to develop capacity in results-based planning and management, both at headquarters and at the country level.

44. Delegations noted the need to strengthen links between programme and evaluation activities and risk analysis models, and to maintain the respective governance roles of management, oversight and guidance. They encouraged further efforts by UNFPA in measuring impact and managing risks and hoped that these two key functions would be reflected in the forthcoming medium-term strategic plan. They pointed out that the formulation of indicators in collaboration with national counterparts would make them more acceptable. Delegations stated that it was important to provide guidelines on how UNFPA could ensure that sexual and reproductive health indicators could be included in sector-wide approaches and other joint funding schemes. Delegations commended UNFPA for conducting a meta-type assessment of its evaluation work. They suggested that it would be interesting to have an evaluation of the evaluators. Delegations asked about concrete measures taken to follow-up on evaluation recommendations and track progress. They noted that it would be useful to have a complete list of evaluations carried out during the reporting period. Some delegations requested clarification regarding the suggestion to consolidate the evaluation and audit reports. Delegations asked when UNFPA would submit an evaluation policy to the Executive Board for review. They were also interested in learning about any planned or ongoing joint country-level evaluations with UNDG partners.

45. The Executive Director, the Deputy Executive Director, External Relations, United Nations Affairs and Management (ERUNAM) and the Director, DOS, thanked the Executive Board for the positive feedback and guidance. The Executive Director underscored that UNFPA was committed to being accountable to the Executive Board and its development partners and in turn looked to the Board for guidance. She stated that UNFPA had made the oversight function as independent as possible. She noted that some country offices had decided to have evaluation officers and UNFPA expected to have evaluation advisers in the regional offices to work with national partners to build capacity and to ensure that evaluation findings were integrated in the country programmes. Concurring that partnerships were essential for the work of the Fund, she pointed out that audit and evaluation findings did not simply reflect the work of the Fund but also that of its partners. Thus, it was equally important for partners to make a concerted effort to address audit and evaluation findings. She added that UNFPA was actively engaged in the United Nations system evaluation networks, along with UNDP and other partners.

46. The Deputy Executive Director (ERUNAM) emphasized the participatory nature of the evaluations and noted that UNFPA was committed to building national capacity for evaluations. She stated that UNFPA had systems in place, including the Management and Programme Committees, to review evaluation results and integrate findings into programmes and policies. She underscored that from the top down UNFPA had high commitment to evaluation. She added that the Fund was working on improving the electronic system for evaluation follow-up. She concurred on the importance of utilizing a participatory approach to select indicators. Noting the challenge involved in defining indicators for sector-wide approaches, she

emphasized the need for all development partners to work together in addressing the challenge. The Director, DOS, underlined that evaluations could not be undertaken without the participation of the Fund's partners and UNFPA was very attentive to national capacity-building. He agreed that there should be enhanced sharing of evaluation tools, results and lessons learned with development partners. Regarding his suggestion that the evaluation and audit reports could be combined, he clarified that he was proposing to merge them in the framework of oversight and risk management. He noted that the risk management of UNFPA could not be confined to financial risk management. He added that the independence of audit would be assured through the Oversight Committee and United Nations Board of Auditors.

47. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/11: Evaluation (UNFPA).

UNDP segment

VI. Annual report of the Administrator

48. Noting the integration of the requests of the Executive Board expressed in its decision 2005/20, the Associate Administrator introduced the multi-year funding framework (MYFF) report on UNDP performance and results for 2005 (DP/2006/17), including its annexes containing supplementary data on UNDP performance and results, and programme expenditure by practice and service line for 2005; the joint report of UNDP and UNFPA on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (DP/2006/17/Add.1); and the statistical annex (DP/2006/17/Add.2), reflecting progress made in 2005 against the goals and objectives of the 2004-2007 multi-year funding framework.

49. The Associate Administrator highlighted the leading role of UNDP in United Nations development reform and cited the establishment of the first United Nations joint office in 2005, as well as plans to establish at least 20 such offices by the end of 2007 as an example of the reform.

50. Summarizing the report, the Associate Administrator shared illustrative examples of work undertaken by UNDP across the practice areas and noted that 97 per cent of its programme activities fell within the five practice areas and 30 service lines of the current MYFF.

51. The Associate Administrator acknowledged the centrality of partnerships with global and local stakeholders in support of the results achieved in 2005 and noted that while a high percentage of stakeholders reported having confidence in UNDP as a development partner, the organization continues to seek improvements in operational efficiency and effectiveness as well as in its systems of accountability and risk management.

52. Delegations thanked the Associate Administrator, noted with satisfaction the frankness of the report and expressed overall support for the role of UNDP in support of the MDGs. Delegations provided suggestions on measures to further improve the clarity of the annual report, including requests for greater focus on performance indicators to measure development results, impact and outcomes both at the country and at the global level. With reference to performance assessments, delegations

considered the "partially achieved" category to be an inappropriate performance measure.

53. Some delegations noted that the development driver concept was not well understood and urged UNDP to design simpler service lines and targets in future. While commending UNDP for greater alignment with the five practice areas, members encouraged UNDP to devote greater attention to the gender, South-South cooperation and capacity-building for national ownership drivers of development effectiveness, and shared views on the future MYFF. One delegation urged UNDP to seek ways to economize on travel expenditure.

54. The Associate Administrator thanked delegations for their comments. He acknowledged that the selection of appropriate performance indicators in results-based management remained a challenge for development actors and that UNDP affirmed that UNDP was committed to being in the vanguard of this learning process. He assured members that due attention would be devoted to strengthening the profile of the gender, South-South cooperation and capacity-building for national ownership drivers.

55. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/22 on the MYFF: report of UNDP performance and results for 2004 and the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

VII. Funding commitments to UNDP

56. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnerships, introduced the paper on funding commitments and presented the overall resource situation, informing members that contributions to core resources totalled $923 million in 2005 (representing a 10 per cent nominal increase from the previous year), a quarter of which was attributable to exchange-rate fluctuations. The Assistant Administrator recognized that a growing number of donors have adhered to multi-year funding commitments; noted that uneven burden-sharing and predictability remained areas of concern; recognized the potential for increased contributions to core resources from middle-income programme countries; and drew attention to the importance of payment schedules. Assuming current exchange rates, core contributions to UNDP are expected to reach $980 million in 2006.

57. With respect to non-core resources, contributions increased from $3.3 billion to $4.1 billion. Noting that the magnitude of these contributions demanded greater clarity, the Assistant Administrator announced the introduction of new classification criteria for non-core resources in the annual review paper to be submitted to the Executive Board in September 2006. Based on the nature of the funds provided, non-core resources will be broken down into *donor bilateral non-core* ($1.2 billion in 2005); *donor multilateral funding* ($1.3 billion from entities such as the European Commission, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility) and *programme country resources* entrusted to UNDP ($1.3 billion). A fourth category, recorded in the balance sheets but not reflected as income, consists of resources managed by UNDP on behalf of the United Nations system, which totalled close to $1 billion in 2005.

58. The Assistant Administrator expressed the concern of management over the observed decline in core contributions to the associated funds and programmes,

especially to the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), and the decline in total resources to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme.

59. Delegations commended UNDP for the achievement of the interim MYFF targets and characterized the overall resource situation, as well as recent income trends, as remarkable. Some delegations recalled the centrality of core funding as the bedrock of UNDP resources; called on donors to continue providing financial support to UNDP in the hope that the 2006 MYFF target would be met; and further encouraged those in a position to do so to make multi-year commitments.

60. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/24 on the status of regular resources funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2006 and onwards (DP/2006/18).

VIII. Human Development Report

61. The Director, Human Development Report Office, briefed the Executive Board on the consultative process undertaken in preparation for the 2006 edition of the Human Development Report among both Members States and human development practitioners. The Director noted that the consultations had been well attended and characterized as 'very useful', with many participants expressing strong support for the editorial independence of the report.

62. Delegations commended the Human Development Report Office for the inclusive consultative process undertaken; reaffirmed the importance of the report in promoting the human development paradigm; and called for greater involvement of Members States in the annual selection of themes.

63. The Executive Board took note of the update on Human Development Report consultations (DP/2006/19).

IX. Country programmes and related matters

64. The Associate Administrator invited delegations to review and comment on the draft country programmes submitted for consideration, noting that, in response to the challenges set forth in the Paris Declaration and the World Summit Outcome, UNDP country programmes increasingly seek to reflect enhanced responsiveness to national development priorities as well as applicable elements of United Nations reform and aid harmonization. The Associate Administrator informed members that the Administrator had approved one-year extensions of the country programmes for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda, and Togo; for Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka; for Kuwait and Lebanon; and for Costa Rica, Haiti, Nicaragua and Trinidad and Tobago.

65. The Deputy Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, presented the draft country programme documents for Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, presented the draft country programme for Thailand. The Deputy Director,

Regional Bureau for the Arab States, presented the draft country programme documents for Egypt, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, presented the draft country programme document for the Republic of Moldova.

66. The Board commented on the draft country programmes, noting with satisfaction that they were adequately aligned with individual national priorities. UNDP undertook to convey comments to the respective country offices for consideration prior to the finalization of individual country programme documents at the first regular session 2007.

67. The Executive Board took note of the draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon. Similarly, it took note of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Bhutan, Costa Rica, Haiti, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malawi, Nepal, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Togo, and Trinidad and Tobago; and approved the second one-year extension of the country programmes for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia.

X. South-South cooperation

68. The Director, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, introduced the report on the implementation of the Third Cooperation Framework for South-South Cooperation covering 2005-2007, highlighting the achievements made at the halfway point in three domains of work: (a) ways to attain the MDGs through South-South cooperation; (b) establishment of an enabling environment for expanded South-South business cooperation and technology exchanges for poverty reduction; and (c) fostering the sharing of Southern development solutions.

69. Delegations reiterated the importance of South-South cooperation towards achieving the MDGs, thanked the Administrator for the report under consideration, and, notwithstanding their appreciation for the reported achievements made at the halfway point of the third cooperation framework, expressed the opinion that the full potential of South-South cooperation had not been fully harnessed as a means to foster South-South self-reliance and interdependence. They requested UNDP to give due attention to the South-South cooperation development driver, and to mainstream it in the upcoming MYFF. Some delegations expressed concern over the inclusion of migrant worker remittances in the report as a source of financing for development.

70. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/26 on the report on the implementation of the third cooperation framework for South-South cooperation (DP/2006/21).

XI. United Nations Office for Project Services

71. The new Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) introduced the annual report for 2005, pledging his fullest commitment to UNOPS as a world-class provider of essential services. The Executive Director noted a growth in demand for UNOPS services, as evidenced by a record level of more

than $1 billion in new project portfolio acquisitions; recalled the central elements of the action plan to return UNOPS to financial viability; and informed the members that the new UNOPS facilities in Copenhagen would start operating on 3 July 2006, the gradual transfer of functions and staff from New York and Geneva to take place over the following nine months. Turning to the plan of action for the UNOPS financial statements covering the biennium 2004-2005, he informed members that action had been proposed to ensure the successful resubmission of UNOPS financial statements no later than 30 November 2006, and that an accounting firm had been engaged to oversee the financial closing process.

72. Delegations welcomed the appointment of the new Executive Director of UNOPS, recognized the important steps that have been taken to render UNOPS more effective and accountable, and expressed the hope that UNOPS is on track to restore its financial viability after a prolonged and admittedly troubled period. Delegations encouraged UNOPS to continue strengthening internal audit, oversight and risk management functions; and acknowledged the important role that the organization could play as a provider of services to the United Nations family.

73. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/17 on the annual report of the Executive Director (DP/2006/22) and took note of the update on the status of the implementation of UNOPS transition measures (DP/2006/CRP.3).

XII. United Nations Capital Development Fund

74. The Executive Secretary of UNCDF presented the 2005 programme and management results of the Fund as well as the findings of the independent evaluation of its programmes. The Executive Secretary also called the attention of members to the focus of the Fund on tangible poverty reduction initiatives undertaken exclusively in least developed countries (LDCs), including post-conflict countries; noted the high incidence of women benefiting from UNCDF programmes; emphasized the importance of national ownership in capacity building in the work of the Fund; and called on members to provide sustained financial support in light of the present shortfall in both core and non-core resources.

75. Delegations noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the UNCDF business plan, commended management for the ongoing efforts to mobilize additional resources, and expressed concern that these efforts had so far not enabled the Fund to reach either the volume targets or the desired diversification of its resource base. Delegations noted that the reliance of the Fund on a single donor for as much as 50 per cent of its core funds undermined the multilateral character of the organization. Delegations called on members in a position to do so to provide resources to UNCDF and urged UNDP management to make its resource mobilization expertise available to the Fund.

76. Members of the Board noted with satisfaction the strengthened partnership between UNDP and UNCDF, as well as the attention devoted by UNCDF programmes to the gender dimension.

77. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/15 on the results-oriented annual report of UNCDF (DP/2006/23).

XIII. United Nations Volunteers

78. In his introductory remarks the Administrator referred to the unique and important role played by the UNV programme within UNDP, and through UNDP with the United Nations system, in promoting the concept of volunteerism for development and in mobilizing volunteers.

79. The UNV Executive Coordinator presented the biennial report on UNV performance, responding to the 2004 EB decision that encouraged enhancing analysis to facilitate a good understanding of UNV activities and their impact. He introduced the UNV results framework with its three areas of distinctive contribution in support of the UNDP MYFF and the United Nations system-wide efforts towards achieving the MDGs. The three areas are: (a) enabling disadvantaged groups and communities to gain wider access to opportunities and services and to enhance the delivery of these services; (b) inclusion and participation and promoting the involvement of all stakeholders, in particular the disadvantaged, in processes that affect their well being; and (c) community mobilization through voluntary action.

80. The UNV Executive Coordinator highlighted the continuing growth of the programme to a total of close to 8,500 UNV volunteer assignments in 2005 – a 45 per cent growth compared to 2003 (the last year of the previous biennium); and to a total financial equivalent of activities of some $170 million in 2005. UNV volunteers from 165 countries served in 144 countries in 2005, working with more than 25 different United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes, including 13 peacekeeping missions. The work of UNV extends well beyond the mobilization of volunteers, to include advocating globally for volunteerism and working towards its integration into development programming. UNV support to programme countries in creating a supportive environment for volunteerism, including the establishment of volunteer infrastructure, is now well established.

81. Representatives of 18 countries, on behalf of 24, commended UNV efforts in promoting volunteerism for development and shared experiences highlighting the role of the programme. They took note of the efforts to develop a business model and results framework highlighting the distinct contribution of UNV to the MDGs while ensuring alignment with the UNDP MYFF. Delegations were interested to know how UNV stays in touch with volunteers after their assignments. They encouraged UNV to focus more on gender participation, enquired about how UNV ensures the quality of assignments and a reliable monitoring and servicing during the assignments, and stated that UNV can be an important mechanism to support the building-up of national capacities through volunteerism and volunteer infrastructure.

82. Four United Nations partner organizations of UNV made statements as observers to the Executive Board: DPKO, OCHA, UNHCR and WFP, as did the IPU. They highlighted the excellent partnership they have with UNV and the valuable contribution of UNV volunteers.

XIV. United Nations Development Fund for Women

83. The Deputy Executive Director of UNIFEM introduced the report on the implementation of its multi-year funding framework, 2004-2007, highlighting (a) progress towards the four outcomes of the strategic results framework, including relevant illustrative case-studies for each outcome; (b) actions undertaken in support of greater organizational effectiveness and; (c) the integrated resource framework. The Executive Director concluded the presentation with an overview of priorities for the biennium 2007-2011.

84. Delegations commended UNIFEM for its focus on four key goals: (a) reducing feminized poverty, (b) ending violence against women, (c) reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls, and (d) achieving gender equality in democratic governance. Some delegations provided illustrative testimonies of the impact of UNIFEM activities in their respective countries.

85. Delegations recognized with appreciation the strengthened coordination between the Fund, UN agencies, regional organizations and civil society; acknowledged the role of UNIFEM in bringing gender perspectives to harmonization and coordination processes; and stressed the importance of core funding, in spite of the record-high total income figures recorded for 2005.

86. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/21 on implementing the multi-year funding framework 2005 (DP/2006/25) and on the *Organizational Assessment: UNIFEM Past, Present and Future* (report of the Advisory Panel to the UNIFEM Consultative Committee) (DP/2006/26).

XV. Evaluation

87. The Director, Evaluation Office, introduced the annual report of the Administrator on evaluation, focusing her intervention on coverage, quality, use, key findings and partnerships in evaluation and on the proposed programme of work for the upcoming year. The Director proceeded to present the draft evaluation policy for UNDP, describing the formulation process, purpose, novel features and changes expected as a result of the policy; and the evaluation of the role and contributions of UNDP in the HIV/AIDS response in Southern Africa and Ethiopia.

88. The Associate Administrator and the Director, HIV/AIDS Group, presented the management response to the report of the Administrator on evaluation, and the evaluation of the role and contributions of UNDP in the HIV/AIDS response in Southern Africa and Ethiopia, respectively.

89. Delegations noted the improvement in the quality of the evaluation function within UNDP and its use as a tool for results-based management. Members welcomed the introduction of the evaluation policy, which they considered comprehensive and thorough in scope, clear in demarcating the roles and responsibilities of the various actors, and timely.

90. Delegations urged UNDP to conduct operations at the country level in consultation with host governments and, where appropriate, to provide support to national evaluation capacities. Members urged UNDP to follow up on the

recommendations of the evaluation of the role and contributions of UNDP in the HIV/AIDS response in Southern Africa and Ethiopia.

91. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/19 on the annual report of the Administrator on evaluation (DP/2006/27); decision 2006/20 on the evaluation policy of UNDP (DP/2006/28); and decision 2006/16 on the role and contributions of UNDP in the HIV/AIDS response in Southern Africa and Ethiopia (DP/2006/29), and took note of the management response thereto (DP/2006/30)].

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

XVI. Internal audit and oversight

92. The report of UNDP on internal audit and oversight (DP/2006/31) and the UNDP management response were introduced by the Director, UNDP Office of Performance Review, and the UNDP Associate Administrator respectively. The report of UNFPA on internal audit and oversight (DP/FPA/2006/4) and the UNFPA management response were introduced by the Director, UNFPA Division for Oversight Services (DOS) and the UNFPA Deputy Executive Director, External Relations, United Nations Affairs and Management (ERUNAM), respectively. The Executive Director, UNFPA, made a statement informing the Executive Board about the establishment of an independent Oversight Committee composed of five highly experienced experts who were not affiliated to the United Nations. The report of UNOPS on internal audit and oversight (DP/2006/32) and the UNOPS management response were introduced by the Director, UNDP Office of Performance Review, and the Regional Director of UNOPS for Central Asia, North Africa, Near East and Europe; respectively.

93. Delegations welcomed efforts by UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to strengthen internal audit and oversight functions, as well as the introduction of risk management strategies, and expressed satisfaction in seeing that serious action had been undertaken in response to previous Executive Board recommendations in this regard. They praised the establishment of independent oversight bodies, and, while noting an improvement in the quality of audit and oversight reports, recommended the inclusion of additional analyses in future reports.

94. Concerning the issue of national execution, delegations expressed concern over the number of country offices receiving a 'deficient' audit rating and recalled the importance of developing national programme implementation capacities. They stressed the need to build national capacity in order to strengthen national execution, and to ensure that awareness was created regarding risk prevention. They pointed out that direct execution should only be resorted to in exceptional cases. Delegations indicated concern over the number of fraud allegations received by the Office of Audit Performance and Review after the introduction of its fraud hotline.

95. Some delegations requested clarification on the distinction between the more frequent cases of non-compliance with rules and regulations as opposed to the less frequent number of reported violations. Members also inquired how UNDP planned to track and monitor compliance in cases of carry-over audit recommendations.

96. UNDP recalled that the expected introduction of a formal risk-management model should not suggest that the organization had not managed risk hitherto. The Director, Office of Audit and Performance Review, informed the members that the present baseline findings would permit a more rigorous trend analysis in future audit reports; assured members that the monitoring of carry-over recommendations was being implemented; explained that the incidence of 'non-compliance' is partially associated with the learning process that followed the introduction of the Atlas system as an enterprise resource planning tool; and reported that there was documented evidence in the literature that the high number of fraud allegations reported after the introduction of the fraud hotline was a short-term phenomenon tending to occur immediately after the introduction of such tools.

UNFPA

97. Delegations welcomed UNFPA efforts to strengthen internal audit and oversight functions as well as the introduction of risk management strategies. They were pleased to note the actions outlined in the UNFPA management response, including establishment of the fraud hotline and the Oversight Committee. They were also pleased to note that UNFPA had adopted a risk model. The importance of measuring impact and managing risks was underscored and delegations hoped that that would be reflected in the Fund's upcoming medium-term strategic plan.

98. Concerning the issue of national execution (NEX), delegations emphasized that national capacity-building was one of the key principles of the development assistance provided by the United Nations system. They underscored the need to build national capacity to strengthen and encourage NEX and to ensure that awareness was created regarding risk prevention, including through training. They pointed out that direct execution should only be used in exceptional cases. It was suggested that the involvement of Supreme National Audit Institutions in the selection of external auditors should be increased, together with increasing country input on evaluation of non-governmental organizations.

99. While noting the improved quality of the reports, delegations encouraged UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to make future audit reports more analytical and to include information regarding the carry-over of unresolved audit issues. They advised the three organizations to include trend analysis and to use a common structure, harmonized terminology, and comparable risk categories. One delegation asked for an interim report in 2007 regarding efforts of the three agencies towards harmonization.

100. The Deputy Executive Director (ERUNAM) underscored the Fund's commitment to NEX and stressed that the premise of the work of UNFPA was to implement through partners. Indeed, that was the bedrock of UNFPA operations. She affirmed the importance of national capacity-building and stated that there should be increased focus on tools and training to enhance capacity-building. The Director, DOS, noted that UNFPA had already begun discussions with UNDP regarding harmonization of the risk model. Discussions were also under way with a larger group of internal auditors from the United Nations system. He stated that enterprise risk management was relatively new for all concerned and he was at the disposal of Executive Board members for any required clarifications or explanations. Concerning NEX he emphasized that UNFPA was committed to national capacity-

building. He added that, at the same time, it was also a part of the Fund's responsibility to flag risks.

101. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/13: Internal audit and oversight: UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS.

XVII. Programming process

102. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Development Policy, presented the report on the implementation of joint programming and joint programmes by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF. In his statement, the Assistant Administrator introduced general findings and conclusions pertaining to the common experience of the three organizations, as well as those pertaining exclusively to UNDP. The UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) presented highlights from the UNFPA experience. Noting that joint programmes contributed to attaining the International Conference on Population and Development goals and the MDGs, he stated that the areas of concentration for UNFPA joint programmes were closely linked with its mandate – for example, reproductive health, HIV prevention, youth, and data collection. He underscored that UNFPA would continue to work closely with United Nations Development Group partners to build on successes and to address outstanding challenges.

103. Delegations welcomed the joint efforts undertaken by the three organizations and noted with satisfaction the alignment of current efforts with the recommendations of both the triennial comprehensive policy review (TCPR) and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. A few delegations underscored that a shift towards joint programming should be dissociated from the broader United Nations reform process. Despite the limited information pertaining to financial allocations to joint programmes and the absence of an assessment on development impact, delegations were pleased to note the growing incidence of joint programmes.

104. Acknowledging that efforts on joint programmes remained a work in progress, some delegations noted that joint programmes do not constitute an end in themselves, but rather a means to achieve greater impact on development outcomes through reduced transaction costs and increased efficiency. Other delegations expressed concern over the expansion of joint programmes according to uniform models, which, they felt, could undermine national ownership and weaken the identity and comparative strengths of individual organizations.

105. The Executive Board took note of the report on the implementation experience of joint programming and joint programmes by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF since 2004 (DP/2006/33-DP/FPA/2006/11); and postponed consideration of the report on options for improving the harmonized country programme approval process (DP/2006/34-DP/FPA/2006/12).

XVIII. Field visits

Joint field visit to Indonesia

106. The Executive Board decided to postpone consideration of the report of the joint field visit to Indonesia to the Second regular session 2006.

Field visit to the United Republic of Tanzania

107. In introducing the report of the field visit to the United Republic of Tanzania (DP/2006/CRP.5 – DP/FPA/2006/CRP.3), the co-rapporteur thanked the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania for their generous hospitality and for the fruitful discussions. She also thanked the United Nations Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative and the UNFPA Representative, as well as the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board secretariat for the excellent arrangements. She noted that although the United Nations was not a major donor in the country it was highly regarded and had played a key role in the country's development. She outlined the successes achieved and the challenges the country faced. She underscored that the Executive Board delegation had been pleased to note the concrete results of the work of the United Nations country team. Several Board members who had participated in the field visit took the floor to express their appreciation and agreed that the field visit had been very productive and useful. They noted that the country's national poverty eradication strategy and other frameworks, including the Joint Assistance Strategy (JAS) were effectively guiding the development efforts of the United Republic of Tanzania. They added that the JAS operationalized the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and was an effective framework for managing development cooperation between the Government and its partners. Delegations emphasized the importance of continuing the practice of Executive Board field visits.

108. The Executive Board took note of the report on the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board field visit to the United Republic of Tanzania (DP/2006/CRP.5 – DP/FPA/2006/CRP.3); and postponed consideration of the joint UNDP/UNFPA field visit to Indonesia (DP/2006/CRP.4 – DP/FPA/2006/CRP.2).

XIX. Multi-year funding framework, 2008-2011

109. The Associate Administrator introduced the status report on the preparation of the MYFF, 2008-2011, recalling ongoing United Nations reform processes likely to influence the future MYFF. The Associate Administrator reassured members that the exercise would include a review of service lines and a reorganization of MDG work, while addressing national ownership and recognizing the relevance of new partnerships; and that a broad process of consultation and dialogue would be undertaken with members.

110. Delegations concurred that the recommendations of the High-level Panel introduced an element of uncertainty regarding the environment in which the MYFF would be developed, and recalled that the upcoming TCPR should likewise inform the MYFF preparation process. Nevertheless, delegations reiterated the concerns previously expressed during the discussion of the MYFF, 2004-2007, namely, the

need to strengthen the profiles of the gender, South-South cooperation and capacity-building for national ownership drivers of development effectiveness.

111. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/23 on the multi-year funding framework, 2008-2011.

XX. Other matters

Briefing on the Brussels Plan of Action for the LDCs for the decade 2001-2010

112. The UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) and the Director, Capacity Development Group, UNDP Bureau for Development Policy, introduced the oral briefings by UNFPA and UNDP on the support provided by their respective organizations to the implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action for LDCs.

113. Delegations thanked the speakers for their presentations and requested that UNDP provide continued support to national focal points for the implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action in the LDC country offices; and that, through the Resident Coordinator, it seek to promote the plan more effectively.

114. Delegations were pleased to take note of UNFPA contributions, and inquired whether UNFPA had a specific strategy for assisting the LDCs in implementing the Brussels Programme of Action. Referring to the South-South cooperation mentioned in the oral report, one delegation asked whether UNFPA would undertake other such initiatives in the future.

Other events

115. In addition, the Executive Board held the following informal consultations:

(a) **UNFPA**

UNFPA special event: panel discussion on *Population and poverty and eradication*;
Informal consultations on the medium-term strategic plan;
Informal briefing on regionalization;
Informal briefing on the UNFPA corporate strategy for humanitarian response

(b) **UNDP**

Informal briefing on the UNDP strategy for Central Asia, including the Central Asia human development report.

(c) **Joint UNDP/UNFPA**

UNDP/UNFPA joint informal briefing on the humanitarian response;
UNDP/UNFPA joint informal briefing on international migration.

Part three
Second regular session

Held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 11 to 13 September 2006

I. Organizational matters

1. The second regular session 2006 of the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA met from 11 to 13 September in New York. At the session, the Executive Board approved the agenda and work plan for its second regular session 2006 (DP/2006/L.3), as orally amended, and the report of its annual session 2006 (DP/2006/35).

2. The Executive Board agreed, in decision 2006/37, to the following schedule of sessions of the Executive Board in 2007:

First regular session 2007:	19 to 26 January 2007
Annual session 2007:	11 to 22 June 2007 (New York)
Second regular session 2007:	10 to 14 September 2007

3. The Executive Board adopted 10 decisions, including the overview of decisions. The compendium of decisions adopted is available on the Executive Board Secretariat web site at www.undp.org/execbrd.

UNDP segment

II. Statement by the Administrator and financial, budgetary and administrative matters

4. In his statement to the Executive Board, the Administrator remembered the victims of the terrorist attacks launched on the United States five years earlier and, reiterating the position of the Secretary General, recalled that such acts constitute direct attacks on the core values of the United Nations.

5. The Administrator took stock of most salient events shaping the international development agenda since his last address to the Executive Board and outlined some of the key issues facing UNDP.

(a) Following the events in the Middle East, UNDP supported the governments of Lebanon and Sweden in the successful convening of a donor conference some two weeks after the cease-fire.

(b) While the replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and the advancement of reforms that will enhance the participation of developing countries in IMF decision-making processes were encouraging, the suspension of the Doha trade negotiations constituted a setback for those seeking broader pro-development trade reforms.

(c) UNDP has sought to address the intrinsic tension between long-term development effects and the need to demonstrate tangible results through a focus on capacity development.

(d) Since the adoption of an international development agenda anchored in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), UNDP and United Nations country office efforts have focused on the development of methodologies and routines for the monitoring and reporting on the MDGs. The halfway point in

the 2000-2015 time period calls for a greater sense of urgency and heralds the advent more intensive policy work in three areas: (i) MDG diagnostics, investment and planning; (ii) widening policy options; and (iii) national capacity to deliver.

(e) The High-Level Panel has concluded its discussions, reaching a consensus on the need for greater cohesiveness between the various parts of the United Nations development system and on the recognition that UNDP may be the most appropriate body to manage the resident coordinator system. UNDP will, however, have to change, by limiting its operational work to strengthening the coherence and positioning of the United Nations country team. It will need to withdraw from those programmatic activities for which other United Nations actors have the competencies.

6. The Administrator introduced the new Director of the Bureau of Management and announced the appointment of a new Director of the gender team as part of the ongoing endeavours to strengthen the management team. He added that the management and workflow review process had entered a second phase focused on enhancing country office capacities, while measures had been undertaken to strengthen audit, oversight and support mechanisms for improved accountability.

7. As was reported in the annual review of the financial situation, 2005 (DP/2006/37 and addendum), total income to UNDP increased 20 per cent in nominal terms over the period. The growth of non-core resources to UNDP outpaced core growth, resulting in a sub-optimal ratio between resources that enable UNDP to fulfil its mandate effectively and flexibly and those that are earmarked to varying degrees.

8. The Administrator introduced the report on the technical cooperation expenditures in 2005 (DP/2006/38 and addendum); the report of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office for the biennium 2004-2005, including detailed procurement statistics and analysis for the United Nations System (DP/2006/39, DP/2006/40 and corrigendum); and the report on the current practice of determining specific cost-recovery rates and clear cost-recovery criteria (DP/2006/41).

9. Delegations thanked the Administrator for his presentation and welcomed the newly appointed members of the management team. Members of the Board concurred with much of the analysis made by the Administrator, stressed the urgency of promoting of the MDG agenda and welcomed the sharpened focus of UNDP in support of the MDGs. Recognizing the difficulty of measuring development results, delegations nevertheless called on UNDP to continue building an appropriate framework to measure such results. Delegations welcomed the overall trend in funding to UNDP but echoed the concern of the Administrator over the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources.

10. Members welcomed the update on the work of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment, and, while looking forward to its final report, expressed their overall support for a tighter United Nations presence at the country office level.

11. The Executive Board adopted decisions 2006/28, 2006/29 and 2006/30 on the annual review of the financial situation, 2005 (UNDP), on the report of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office for the biennium 2004-2005, and on the report

on the current practice of determining specific cost-recovery rates and clear cost-recovery criteria, respectively.

III. Country programmes and related matters (UNDP)

Country programmes

12. The Associate Administrator invited delegations to review and comment on the draft country programmes submitted for consideration. A group of delegations made a joint statement calling on UNDP to strengthen its consultation processes in the formulation of country programme documents in all regions. The statement noted that some consultation processes at the country level had not being extended to all key stakeholders, including civil society, or had been extended too late to allow them sufficient time to give feedback. In that regard, the statement highlighted the importance of the resident coordinator, as head of the United Nations country team (UNCT), in keeping lines of communication open among key stakeholders (even in challenging circumstances), and of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), where they existed, in guiding the UNCT in developing country programme documents to achieve key outcomes.

13. The Associate Administrator informed delegations that the Administrator had approved one-year extensions for the country programmes for Colombia, Equatorial Guinea and Suriname, and the regional programmes for Africa and for Asia and the Pacific (DP/2006/42/Rev.1). The Associate Administrator invited members to comment on and approve the request for the first two-year extension of the second country programme for Sudan.

14. The Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, presented the report of the assessment mission to Myanmar (phase IV of the Human Development Initiative), the respective note by the Administrator and draft country programmes for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Laos and Mongolia.

15. The Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, presented draft country programmes for the Central African Republic, Eritrea, the Gambia, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

16. The Deputy Director, Regional Bureau for the Arab States, introduced the two-year extension of the country programme for Sudan and draft country programme documents for Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Somalia.

17. The Deputy Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, presented draft country programmes for Croatia and the Republic of Montenegro.

18. The Director, Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, introduced the extensions of the country programmes for Colombia and Suriname, and draft country programme documents for Belize, Brazil, Chile, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

19. Comments on the draft country programmes were noted for submission to the respective countries, to be taken into consideration in finalizing the country programmes.

20. The Executive Board took note of the one-year country programme extensions previously approved by the Administrator and approved the first two-year extension for the programme for Sudan. A group of delegations called on UNDP to strengthen consultation processes in the formulation of country programmes and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs).

21. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/32 welcoming the Republic of Montenegro.

Report of the UNDP assessment mission to Myanmar

22. The Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, presented a note by the Administrator on assistance to Myanmar that summarized the major findings and recommendations of the annual independent assessment of the UNDP Human Development Initiative (HDI), phase IV, in Myanmar, conducted in May-June 2006 in accordance with the guidelines set out in Governing Council decision 93/21 and Executive Board decisions 96/1, 98/14, 2001/15, 2003/2, 2004/2, 2005/3, 2005/42 and 2006/2.

23. The 2006 mission concluded that HDI-IV was being implemented in compliance with the mandate established by the Governing Council and Executive Board of UNDP in terms of reaching the poor and vulnerable in rural areas of Myanmar with humanitarian assistance. The mission noted that HDI provided an important showcase of international best practices in participatory development in Myanmar.

24. Given the continuing humanitarian needs and the HDI record of achievements, the mission found numerous reasons for continuing the HDI without interruption, and recommended that UNDP accelerate its preparations for an extension of the HDI-IV programme for the period 2008-2010. In doing so, UNDP should adjust its programme strategy to reflect an even greater pro-poor and livelihoods-based approach.

25. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/31 on assistance to Myanmar, approving the extension of the current phase of the HDI for the period 2008-2010.

IV. United Nations Development Fund for Women

26. Discussion of the report submitted pursuant to Executive Board decision 2006/5 on the response to the findings and recommendations contained in the 'Organizational Assessment: UNIFEM[1] Past, Present and Future' (report of the Advisory Panel to the UNIFEM Consultative Committee) (A/60/62-E/2005/10) was postponed until the first regular session 2007.

[1] The United Nations Development Fund for Women.

V. United Nations Office for Project Services

27. Pursuant to decision 2006/17, the UNOPS Executive Director introduced the progress report on the implementation of the UNOPS action plan (DP/2006/45), which highlighted major accomplishments registered since (a) the establishment of the new corporate headquarters in Copenhagen on 3 July 2006; (b) the appointment of new staff; and (c) the establishment of an improved internal governance structure. Recalling the extension granted by the Board for the submission of the certified financial statements, the Executive Director informed the Board that the necessary clean-up of bad financial data and remedial work presented an opportunity to study the financial reporting procedures used and make structural improvements. The Executive Director reported that UNOPS was on track to meet the financial targets set for 2006.

28. Delegations congratulated UNOPS on the progress achieved towards implementing its action plan. While still concerned about the financial viability of UNOPS, delegations expressed confidence in the management team, requested that it continue reporting to the Board on the financial status of the organization, and reiterated the centrality of the self-financing principle at the core of UNOPS.

29. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/33 expressing appreciation of the efforts under way to resubmit the 2004-2005 financial statements, and requesting UNOPS to present a report on its financial, administrative and operational situation at the first regular session 2007.

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

VI. Follow-up to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting

30. The Chief, HIV/AIDS Branch, UNFPA, and the Director, HIV/AIDS Group, UNDP, made a joint presentation introducing the report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (DP-FPA/2006/1 – E/ICEF/2006/20), jointly elaborated by UNDP, UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

31. Delegations appreciated the joint presentation by UNFPA and UNDP, as well as the joint report, and welcomed the regular reporting to the Executive Board. They noted the progress made in combating HIV/AIDS and emphasized the need to stay focused on halting and reversing the spread of the epidemic and scaling up access to prevention, treatment, care and support. They stressed that coherence should characterize the work of all partners in their different roles as co-sponsors, Member States and donors. Delegations were pleased to see the strengthened, coordinated efforts of United Nations organizations with regard to UNAIDS operational and governance issues. They stated that the coordination around the recommendations of the Global Task Team on Improving AIDS Coordination among Multilateral Institutions and International Donors was an excellent example of United Nations coordination. Delegations encouraged further strengthening of coordination with

respect to division of labour, as well as in countries where there was a fragmented donor response.

32. Delegations welcomed the strengthened focus on engagement with civil society and underscored that this was a crucial element for mounting an effective HIV response. Noting that paragraph 13 of the joint report referred to joint programming for HIV prevention as increasingly becoming the main strategy for providing support at the country level, one delegation emphasized that treatment was as important as prevention. Another delegation requested additional information about the performance of Joint United Nations Teams on AIDS, and the relationship between those teams and the United Nations theme groups. The delegation encouraged UNAIDS co-sponsors to develop instruments for measuring the performance of United Nations organizations at the country level. Some delegations asked if the idea of a scorecard was being moved forward. Others emphasized the crucial role of the UNAIDS secretariat and the co-sponsors in supporting national efforts to set targets and maintain effective monitoring and evaluation frameworks. They hoped for more robust analysis in the future with respect to accomplishments, results, value added, and going to scale. Delegations noted that the Global Joint Problem-Solving and Implementation Support Team (GIST) had worked well as a 'light-touch' trouble-shooting mechanism. They were pleased that GIST membership was being expanded to include donors and civil society.

33. Delegations encouraged all organizations to address gender issues within the HIV/AIDS epidemic. They noted that this was also linked to the work of UNFPA and others with youth and would provide a stronger basis for responding to the needs of vulnerable groups affected by HIV/AIDS. Delegations commended the emphasis placed by UNFPA on including sex-disaggregated indicators in the development of poverty reduction strategy papers as a way to address the feminization of the epidemic. They encouraged United Nations organizations to address the feminization of the epidemic, including by scaling up strategies to meet the needs of women and girls. Underscoring the importance of gender assessments in national AIDS plans, delegations stated that the role of men and boys should be incorporated into the assessments.

34. Delegations appreciated the examples of the work of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP provided in annex 2 of the report. They noted that transparency and accountability would enhance and encourage coordination between organizations and would ensure the most efficient and effective use of resources in HIV programming. Delegations underscored that governments should ensure the sustainability of programmes by setting aside funds for use in combating the epidemic even if donor funding were to cease. They stressed the need to strengthen assistance to national AIDS coordination entities, was and underscored the importance of supporting the 'Three Ones' principles. Delegations recognized the importance of coordinated, complementary reproductive health and HIV/AIDS activities, such as integrating HIV voluntary counselling and testing services within reproductive health care and maternal and child health care. One delegation stated that particularly in high HIV-prevalence settings, voluntary family planning, reproductive health care and antenatal care clinics could be important venues for reaching women and their families with HIV prevention, treatment, counselling and testing, and other interventions.

35. The Chief, HIV/AIDS Branch, UNFPA, appreciated the comments and suggestions of delegations. Concurring that treatment and prevention went hand in hand, he stressed that it should not be a case of either treatment or prevention, but rather of investment in a comprehensive approach including treatment, prevention, care and support in one core package. He noted that the recent international conference on HIV/AIDS held in Toronto, Canada, had underscored the importance of such an approach. He agreed that the GIST was functioning well as a light-touch trouble-shooting mechanism. He added that it was important to have an inclusive mechanism involving Member States, donors and civil society, while ensuring that the mechanism did not become excessively structured or bureaucratic. He agreed with the need to link sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS and emphasized that in order to beat the epidemic it would be critical to reach women and girls in venues where they went for health-care services, including family planning and maternal and child health-care services. He referred to a recent report from Sweden that highlighted the linkages between sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. He noted that the UNAIDS co-sponsors were focusing increasingly on monitoring and evaluation, including through the use of scorecards.

VII. Programming process

36. The President introduced this item recalling that a decision on the matter had been postponed at the annual session and that several informal consultations on the draft decision had taken place since that time.

37. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/36 on the review of the country programme approval process.

38. One delegation, while commending efforts to streamline the country programme approval process, cautioned that decision 2006/36 could have the effect of making the process too automatic. The delegation noted that approval of country programmes was the most important responsibility of the Executive Board, and expressed the hope that Board members would have the opportunity to engage in full discussions of the country programmes before approval.

VIII. Field visits

Joint field visit to Indonesia

39. The rapporteur (the delegate from Ukraine) introduced the report of the joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP to Indonesia from 8 to 22 March 2006 (DP-FPA/2006/CRP.2 and E/ICEF/2006/CRP.16).

40. The team was pleased to note there had been strong country ownership of the UNDAF in Indonesia since its inception and that the framework was duly anchored in the common country assessment and the poverty reduction strategy paper. Yet although coordination among the specialized agencies, funds and programmes was present, the team felt that efforts to achieve coordination sometimes appeared

greater than the results. They noted that joint programming was a very important tool, particularly in the implementation phase.

41. The team found that the office of the United Nations resident coordinator was operating under a unique and effective arrangement. As such, the team noted that the way resources and delegation of authority were managed in the Indonesia office would be worth studying.

42. Participants commented that there was an insufficient level of coordination and collaboration between the United Nations organizations and the local authorities. In that connection, participants in the joint field visit paid particular attention to issues relevant to United Nations reform (such as simplification and harmonization and the resident coordinator system), and to donor coordination and harmonization aspects. The team indicated that United Nations organizations should set overall standards across the board for the projects that they initiate.

43. Participants recommended that relief and rehabilitation agencies provide training in entrepreneurship to local communities, especially to women, and extend small grants to local individuals who develop a feasible business plan. This effort to provide livelihoods could be done in the context of sustainable rehabilitation and recovery.

44. The team recommended that forthcoming joint field visits should complement their terms of reference with a matrix of issues and detailed questions to be addressed during the visit.

45. Members and participants expressed their deep appreciation and gratitude to the authorities and people of Indonesia as well as to the entire United Nations country team.

UNFPA segment

IX. Statement by the Executive Director and financial, administrative and budgetary matters

46. The Executive Director underscored that the international community found itself in a period of change, searching urgently for new ways to implement the development agenda. She stressed the importance of putting people first and focusing on the realization of their full range of human rights, including the right to sexual and reproductive health. She noted that the report of the High-Level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence was eagerly anticipated. She emphasized the need to develop national and local capacity and unleash the talents of people; slow the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV; improve reproductive health, including maternal health; and reduce the potential for social conflict. She noted that poverty eradication required greater progress in the areas of equity and human rights. She underscored the need to enhance global efforts to reduce gender-based violence and drew attention to the Brussels Call to Action issued at the International Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond, organized in June 2006 by UNFPA, the Belgian Government and the European Commission.

47. The Executive Director updated the Executive Board on the progress in the Campaign to End Fistula; and noted that UNFPA was looking forward to the Third International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, in November 2006. The Executive Director went on to highlight the following key issues: partnerships to maximize results, including with UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank; reproductive health commodity security; international migration and development; national ownership and leadership, including support to capacity development and South-South cooperation; regionalization; emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, transition and recovery; and financial matters, including the record increase in UNFPA resources in 2005. She also introduced the Annual Financial Review, 2005 (the full statement of the Executive Director is available on the UNFPA website, http://www.unfpa.org/exbrd).

48. Delegations appreciated the Executive Director's "inspiring" and "excellent" statement. Emphasizing the inextricable linkage between the ICPD goals and the MDGs, delegations underscored the key role of UNFPA in assisting countries in implementing the ICPD agenda and achieving the MDGs. They congratulated UNFPA on the record level of contributions received in 2005 and stated that it was a sign of the robust fiscal health of the Fund. Delegations emphasized the need for stable, predictable funding and underscored that core resources were the bedrock of UNFPA operations and essential to maintaining the multilateral, neutral and universal nature of its work. Some delegations expressed concern regarding the carryover of resources from 2005 to 2006 and urged UNFPA to increase the rate of programme implementation and fully utilize the resources allocated for country programmes. They inquired about the increase in the biennial support budget (BSB). One delegation inquired about the fraud policy of UNFPA.

49. Delegations were interested to learn about UNFPA plans for regionalization, and several noted that it would provide a much stronger technical and support base to the UNFPA country offices. They asked to see the proposal in its entirety, including information on the relationship between regionalization costs and the benefits for country programmes. They noted the need to take the interests of all regions into account. Noting that they were awaiting the report of the High-Level Panel on System-wide Coherence, they underscored that the ultimate goal of coherence should be an improved organization that could deliver real benefits at the community level. Delegations urged UNFPA to continue focusing on its areas of comparative advantage, particularly women and youth, and on linking HIV/AIDS to sexual and reproductive health services. They were pleased to note the collaboration among organizations on STIs, including HIV, and the linkage to maternal health.

50. Underscoring the importance of human security, one delegation stated that it regarded UNFPA as one of its main partners in promoting human security. Delegations commended UNFPA for its efforts to improve reproductive health, make motherhood safe and promote gender equality. Delegations appreciated UNFPA dialogue and partnership with other organizations such as UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank, including in the areas of reducing maternal, child and infant mortality. Delegations commended UNFPA commitment to and engagement in United Nations reform. They encouraged the Fund to invest more in South-South cooperation. They welcomed the launch of the *State of World Population 2006*, focusing on women and migration. Delegations supported the role of UNFPA in

emergency preparedness and humanitarian response and commended its role at the recent Stockholm donor conference for Lebanon's early recovery. Delegations underscored the key role of UNFPA in addressing gender-based violence and promoting reproductive health commodity security.

51. The Executive Director thanked the Executive Board members for their support and guidance on United Nations reform and other issues, including regionalization. She confirmed that UNFPA was committed to promoting South-South cooperation, including support for Partners in Population and Development. She noted that UNFPA was working with countries on their national plans for addressing HIV/AIDS. She added that in 20 per cent of the countries where UNFPA worked it was chairing the United Nations theme group on HIV/AIDS. She underscored the work of UNFPA in comprehensive condom programming and welcomed the support delegations had expressed for linking reproductive health and HIV/AIDS programmes. She appreciated that one delegation had raised the issue of human security. In responding to the query of another delegation she confirmed that a fraud detection/prevention system was in place. She underscored that the Fund engaged in continuous self-auditing and was committed to accountability.

52. Regarding United Nations reform, the Executive Director noted that UNFPA was actively working with partner organizations, inter alia, on common services, results-based budgeting, and implementation of the International Public Service Accounting Standards. A mechanism had also been established to enhance the coordination between the High-Level Committee on Management and the UNDG management group. She thanked the Executive Board for their support and guidance concerning regionalization. She noted that UNFPA would continue to work closely with the Board members and keep them informed through informal meetings as regionalization plans developed. She stated that the details would be shared with the Executive Board prior to the submission of the document for the first regular session 2007. She thanked the delegations for their appreciative comments on the *State of World Population 2006* and the special youth edition. She informed the Board that in 2007 the report would focus on urbanization issues, as would the youth edition.

53. The Deputy Executive Director, External Relations, United Nations Affairs and Management, appreciated the comments of delegations. In responding to a query, she underscored that the slight increase in the percentage of the BSB expenditure was consistent with the increase in income to the Fund. She thanked delegations for emphasizing the importance of increased resource mobilization. She assured the Executive Board that UNFPA was firmly committed to using resources judiciously.

54. The Director, Division for Management Services, noted that during 2005 the dollar had strengthened and this had affected UNFPA field expenditures in local currencies. However, UNFPA had been able to maintain the BSB to income ratio at the previous level. Regarding the resources carried forward from 2005, he observed that, as noted by the Executive Director in her statement, there had been many reasons for that beyond the control of the Fund. However, with the implementation of additional monitoring tools within the Atlas system, especially for country offices, the Fund hoped to improve its expenditure rate. He emphasized the importance of UNFPA receiving early contributions, as this would help to avoid delays in implementation. He added that UNFPA would make consistent efforts to increase the programme implementation rate.

55. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/34: Annual financial review, 2005 (UNFPA).

X. UNFPA role in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery

56. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) and the Chief, Humanitarian Response Unit, UNFPA, introduced the report on integrating the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development into emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery programmes: a strategy to build commitment and capacity (DP/FPA/2006/14). Speaking on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Director, New York Office of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the HIV/AIDS Policy Adviser, Department of Peacekeeping (DPKO) made statements supporting the UNFPA corporate strategy on emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, transition and recovery. They praised UNFPA efforts, particularly with regard to gender mainstreaming, reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS, population dynamics and data collection. They underscored their fruitful partnership with UNFPA, including its collaboration with DPKO within the new work in the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

57. Delegations expressed strong appreciation for the efforts of the Executive Director and the work of UNFPA in emergency, crisis and post-crisis situations ranging from Kyrgyzstan to Sudan. They noted that UNFPA had a key role to play in promoting reproductive health and gender mainstreaming in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery. One delegation praised UNFPA as the "unsung hero" in Darfur, Sudan, for its contributions. Delegations commended the UNFPA plan to build national capacity for response and recovery, including that of women's organizations. They appreciated the fact that capacity-building was to be a foundation of the corporate strategy. They agreed that reliable demographic data, including gender-disaggregated data, was essential. It was underscored that gender-based violence issues and human rights should be well reflected in poverty reduction strategy papers. They sought assurance that the expanded role of UNFPA would not result in duplication of activities. Delegations stressed that UNFPA must ensure coordination with other agencies, including within existing coordination mechanisms such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for Humanitarian Affairs (IASC).

58. Delegations were pleased to hear that the UNFPA emergency preparedness and humanitarian response strategy would be folded into the forthcoming medium-term strategic plan, 2008-2011. They encouraged UNFPA to complete the work on outcome indicators and a monitoring and evaluation mechanism, and to ensure regular reporting to the Executive Board. Delegations asked for information regarding the role of the Fund in the cluster approach, noting that mainstreaming gender in all the clusters remained an issue. They asked for clarification regarding the staffing and posts envisaged under the new strategy. Some delegations stated that they saw the UNFPA role mainly in advocacy. Some delegations stated that they were not clear on how the trust funds mentioned in the document related to the

United Nations Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

59. The Executive Director underscored that the UNFPA corporate strategy on emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery was another example of the Fund's emphasis on being country focused and committed to national capacity-building. She stated that UNFPA was at a crossroads and much was being asked of the Fund. She emphasized that the support of the Executive Board was essential for UNFPA to deliver on its mandate and meet the development needs of people around the globe.

60. The Chief, Humanitarian Response Unit, thanked the delegations for their support. Regarding CAPs and the CERF, she clarified that these were the two major funding mechanisms of United Nations system for acute emergencies. UNFPA had participated in CAPs for a number of years, focusing primarily on reproductive health, prevention/management of gender-based violence, and data collection. She added that UNFPA had used resources from its own emergency fund for "forgotten emergencies". She pointed out that the CERF was a recent mechanism, managed by OCHA, that sought to provide more egalitarian and equitable funding to United Nations organizations, including for "forgotten emergencies". However, CERF funding was for immediate use (within a period of three to six months). She underscored that neither the CAPs nor the CERF could provide funding for the planning, capacity development, training, standard setting, development and dissemination of capacity-building tools envisaged under the UNFPA corporate strategy.

61. Regarding staffing and posts, she noted that these were for local, national, regional and headquarters levels, including secondment of some posts to OCHA, DPKO, government entities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). She assured the Executive Board that the corporate strategy would be smoothly rolled into the medium-term strategic plan. Concerning the UNFPA collaboration with development partners and its role in the IASC and the clusters, she hoped that the statements made by representatives of OCHA and DPKO would have clarified the positive way in which UNFPA was viewed by its partners. She underscored the close collaboration with OCHA, DPKO, UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNIFEM, WFP, WHO and various NGOs, including the Red Cross. Regarding the cluster approach she noted that UNFPA was in the health cluster and had been asked to lead in gender mainstreaming, including training of trainers and prevention/management of gender-based violence. She drew attention to UNFPA support for Security Council resolution 1325, including support for capacity-building of women's organizations in conflict and post-conflict situations; and to the Brussels Call to Action issued at the recent symposium held in Belgium on preventing sexual violence in conflict situations.

62. The Executive Board adopted decision 2006/35: UNFPA role in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery.

XI. Country programmes and related matters (UNFPA)

63. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) introduced the 22 draft country programme documents submitted to the Executive Board for discussion, namely for: Algeria, the Central African Republic, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Senegal, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay.

64. In praising the draft country programme documents and offering constructive suggestions, delegations underlined the importance of country ownership and stressed that this should be inclusive of the views of a wide range of interested stakeholders. They emphasized that it was important for the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the country team to keep lines of communication open among all stakeholders, including civil society and non-governmental organizations, and to give them sufficient time to provide thoughtful and well-considered inputs. In underscoring the importance of harmonization and coordination, delegations noted that the UNDAFs, where they existed, were important documents for guiding the development of the country programme documents. Delegations stated that, overall, their experience with the evolving process had been positive and that the quality of country programme documents had been improving over time. Several delegations whose draft country programme documents were being discussed took the floor to thank UNFPA for its valuable support to their countries. They commended UNFPA efforts in addressing population and development issues, including reproductive health, maternal mortality, emergency obstetric care, skilled attendance at birth, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and gender. Some delegations commented on specific draft country programme documents. One delegation, noting that its country offered a true laboratory of good practice in the area of South-South cooperation, stated that it was ready to share its experience with other countries.

65. The delegation of Japan reiterated, for the record, its position noted earlier in the session concerning the draft country programme documents for the Democratic Republic of Korea. The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Korea responded by referring to its earlier statement clarifying its position with regard to the statement by the delegation of Japan.

66. The Directors of the Africa Division, the Asia and the Pacific Division, the Division for Arab States, Central Asia and Europe, and the Latin America and the Caribbean Division appreciated the positive comments and suggestions and responded to the specific comments and queries of Executive Board members. They confirmed that national ownership and partnerships with civil society and other stakeholders were fundamental dimensions of UNFPA-supported country programmes. They assured the Executive Board that the comments from Board members would be conveyed to the concerned countries.

67. The Executive Board took note of the 22 draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon.

Annex I

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board during 2006

Contents

First regular session 2006 (20-27 January, New York)

Number		Page
2006/1	UNDP multi-year funding framework	63
2006/2	Report of the UNDP assessment mission to Myanmar	63
2006/3	Evaluation of gender mainstreaming and the gender action plan (UNDP)	63
2006/4	UNCDF budgeting and programming decision-making processes	65
2006/5	Organizational assessment of UNIFEM	65
2006/6	Activities of UNOPS	66
2006/7	Working methods of the Executive Board	66
2006/8	Follow-up reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the biennium 2002-2003 (UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS)	67
2006/9	Cost-efficient approaches to providing programme-level data	67
2006/10	Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2006	68

Annual session 2006 (12-23 June, Geneva)

Number		Page
2006/11	Evaluation (UNFPA)	71
2006/12	Annual report of the Executive Director for 2005 and funding commitments to UNFPA	71
2006/13	Internal audit and oversight (UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS)	72
2006/14	Election of the Bureau of the Executive Board	73
2006/15	United Nations Capital Development Fund	73
2006/16	Evaluation: HIV/AIDS response in Southern Africa and Ethiopia	74
2006/17	United Nations Office for Project Services	74
2006/18	United Nations Volunteers	75
2006/19	Evaluation: annual report of the Administrator	75
2006/20	Evaluation: evaluation policy	76
2006/21	United Nations Development Fund for Women	77
2006/22	Multi-year funding framework: performance and results for 2005	77
2006/23	Multi-year funding framework: report on the emerging strategic vision	78
2006/24	Funding commitments to UNDP	78

2006/25 Improving the working methods of the Executive Board 79
2006/26 South-South cooperation 81
2006/27 Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2006 81

Second regular session 2006
(11-15 September, New York)

Number *Page*

2006/28 Annual review of the financial situation, 2005 (UNDP) 85
2006/29 Report of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office for the biennium 2004-2005 86
2006/30 Determination of cost-recovery rates 86
2006/31 Assistance to Myanmar 87
2006/32 Welcoming the Republic of Montenegro 87
2006/33 United Nations Office for Project Services 87
2006/34 Annual financial review, 2005 (UNFPA) 88
2006/35 UNFPA role in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, transition and recovery 88
2006/36 Review of the country programme approval process 89
2006/37 Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its second regular session 2006 .. 89

2006/1
UNDP multi-year funding framework

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report on timeline for the preparation of the UNDP end-of-cycle assessment of performance, 2004-2007, (DP/2006/3);

2. *Invites* the Administrator to submit the envisaged paper on the emerging strategic vision, programme directions and organizational strategy, for discussion during its annual session in June 2006;

3. *Requests* the Administrator to submit an annotated outline of the new multi-year funding framework (MYFF), 2008-2011, to the Executive Board at its first regular session in January 2007, and a draft version of the MYFF, 2008-2011, to the Board at its annual session in June 2007.

27 January 2006

2006/2
Report of the UNDP assessment mission to Myanmar

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the note of the Administrator on assistance to Myanmar (DP/2006/4) and of the report submitted by the independent assessment mission to Myanmar, in particular the key challenges and recommendations mentioned therein;

2. *Notes* that the Human Development Initiative is highly relevant to improving the situation of the rural poor in Myanmar, and *requests* the Administrator to take account of and implement the findings of the independent assessment mission, as appropriate;

3. *Recommends* that UNDP continue to administer the United Nations HIV/AIDS Fund and to engage the international community in supporting the fight against HIV/AIDS in Myanmar.

27 January 2006

2006/3
Evaluation of gender mainstreaming and the gender action plan (UNDP)

The Executive Board,

Having considered the evaluation of gender mainstreaming in UNDP (DP/2006/5) and the management response to the evaluation of gender mainstreaming at UNDP (DP/2006/7),

Having reviewed the progress report on the implementation of the 2005 gender action plan (DP/2006/8) and the gender action plan, 2006-2007 (DP/2006/9),

Recalling the definition of gender mainstreaming (ECOSOC/1997/2) as "a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated" and noted that "the ultimate goal (of such a strategy) is to achieve gender equality",

Taking note with appreciation of the steps taken in 2005 to proactively promote a clear-cut, results-oriented gender mainstreaming strategy for UNDP at all levels,

1. *Welcomes* the contribution made by all the above decisions and actions to preparing UNDP for success in achieving and reporting on gender equality results in its programmes and strategies;

2. *Stresses* the importance of empowerment of women for gender equality and requests the UNDP to take this issue into account while devising and implementing gender equality strategies;

3. *Requests* that the annual report of the Administrator and the annual report on the multi-year funding framework (MYFF) include reporting on progress in achieving gender equality results, particularly at the outcome and impact levels, as an integral element;

4. *Endorses* the gender action plan, 2006-2007, and *requests* the Administrator to make sure that the gender action plan is translated by the regional and thematic bureaux into multi-year gender action plans for their respective regions or thematic areas;

5. *Commends* the UNDP policy on gender balance and diversity and *requests* the Administrator to set benchmarks towards reaching a 50/50 gender balance in senior management by 2010;

6. *Also commends* UNDP for allocating $10 million, including two additional core posts, to support the implementation of the gender action plan, 2006-2007;

7. *Requests* that UNDP urgently address the competency deficit by increasing the number of senior gender equality experts both at headquarters and in regional and key country offices and by developing appropriate competency profiles for all staff within the announced budget;

8. *Requests* UNDP to configure the Atlas system to track both allocations and expenditures for gender equality results and to develop clear reporting guidelines on the 'gender driver' in the MYFF by December 2006;

9. *Stresses* that allocation of resources by UNDP for gender mainstreaming as a driver of development effectiveness is, like the other drivers, part of the core business of UNDP; and in this regard *requests* the Administrator to report on the overall status of core resources at the second regular session 2006;

10. *Welcomes* the decision by the Administrator to establish and chair a gender steering and implementation committee to review results in gender mainstreaming and the achievement of gender equality results, and *requests* the Administrator to take additional steps to create enabling incentive and accountability systems for staff at all operational levels as well as to maintain senior management commitment to ensuring that UNDP makes every possible effort to maximize its achievement of gender equality results;

11. *Urges* the Administrator to identify further measures, including evaluating the position and mandate of the gender unit in BDP, to increase the profile of the UNDP gender policy and the attention given to its implementation;

12. *Requests* the Administrator, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), to advocate for and support the strengthening of United Nations Country Team capacity for the achievement of gender equality results within United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks;

13. *Requests* UNDP to speed up implementation of the relevant elements of General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review, especially those focusing on

gender equality and gender mainstreaming, and to make use, wherever possible, of gender disaggregated data and quantitative and qualitative information;

14. *Requests* the Administrator, both as Administrator of UNDP and as Chair of UNDG, to ensure that the greatest possible attention is given to the achievement of gender equality results in the process of reforming and strengthening the United Nations;

15. *Requests* the Administrator to report on progress in implementing this decision, the management response and the gender action plan at the first regular session in January 2007 and, in particular, on progress in implementing the commitments in the management response (paragraphs 48 to 51) concerning the clarification of the respective roles and responsibilities of UNDP and UNIFEM.

27 January 2006

2006/4
UNCDF budgeting and programming decision-making processes

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report on UNCDF budgeting and programming decision-making processes (DP/2006/10);

2. *Welcomes* the appointment of the new Executive Secretary;

3. *Notes* the progress that UNCDF has made so far in implementing the business plan;

4. *Encourages* UNCDF to continue its strategic review of the business plan and complete its detailed investment plan for the 2006-2007 period;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Executive Board at its annual session in June 2006 on the status of the strategic review and implementation of the business plan, including, in particular, the business development strategy; the managing-for-results strategy; the organizational structure, staffing arrangements and budgetary arrangements set forth therein;

6. *Requests* the Administrator and the Executive Secretary to work closely to finalize a memorandum of understanding between the two organizations setting forth the key elements of their strategic, operational and financial partnership, and report their arrangements to the Board at its annual session in June 2006;

7. *Reiterates* its call upon UNDP to assist UNCDF in mobilizing the resources necessary to sustain its current local development and microfinance activities;

8. *Also reiterates* its call upon donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to provide and sustain additional funding support for UNCDF programmes and activities in the least developed countries.

27 January 2006

2006/5
Organizational assessment of UNIFEM

The Executive Board

1. *Recalls* ECOSOC resolution 2005/54 of 27 July 2005, General Assembly resolutions 59/250 of 22 December 2004, and 60/137 of 16 December 2005;

2. *Takes note of* the report commissioned by the UNIFEM Consultative Committee (A/60/62-E/2005/10), "Organizational assessment: UNIFEM past, present and future";

3. *Appreciates* the efforts of the UNIFEM Consultative Committee to stimulate debate on the challenges involved in mainstreaming gender equality in the context of United Nations reform;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts of UNIFEM to strengthen coordination and technical support on gender equality to United Nations country teams through the United Nations Development Group in line with the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review and in this regard *also welcomes* the contributions that the Fund has made in supporting initiatives of Member States, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women;

5. *Encourages* Member States in a position to do so to increase their contributions to UNIFEM, in particular to core resources, in order to enable it to reach its goals and targets under the multi-year funding framework;

6. *Request* the Administrator to report to the Executive Board his views on the 'Organizational assessment: UNIFEM past, present and future', taking into account ongoing discussion on United Nations reform and the overall gender architecture, at the annual session in June 2006;

7. *Also requests* the Administrator to take steps to ensure that UNIFEM gains access to relevant United Nations forums in order to better achieve its contribution to United Nations objectives in gender equality and women's empowerment in accordance with its mandate, and to report on the progress to the Executive Board at its second regular session 2006;

8. *Further requests* the Administrator to strengthen the collaboration at the programme level between UNDP and UNIFEM, so that UNIFEM can continue to discharge its entire mandate, including its innovative and catalytic role, to bring a gender equality perspective to coordination mechanisms such as United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and national poverty reduction strategies.

27 January 2006

2006/6
Activities of UNOPS

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the progress report of the Executive Director, a.i., on the activities of UNOPS (DP/2006/11);

2. *Welcomes* the progress made and action taken by UNOPS in execution of decision 2005/36 of 9 September 2005, and *also welcomes* the transparent approach of UNOPS to making management decisions;

3. *Further welcomes* the determination of UNOPS to improve its accuracy in costing, as well as its drive to enhance business efficiency.

27 January 2006

2006/7
Working methods of the Executive Board

The Executive Board,

Recalling decision 2005/32 on the working methods of the Executive Board,

Recalling also its rules of procedure and *underlining* the importance of their observance,

1. *Decides* to continue discussion and consultations on the working methods of the Executive Board as an ongoing process of improving and streamlining the work of the Executive Board and *requests* UNDP and UNFPA, in consultation with Member States, to present suggestions at the annual session 2006 on further enhancing the working methods, including on the early election of the Bureau at the last meeting of the second regular session in September.

27 January 2005

2006/8
Follow-up reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the biennium 2002-2003 (UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS)

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the progress made by UNDP and UNOPS in implementing the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the biennium ended 31 December 2003, as contained in document DP/2006/13, and of the specific efforts made by management to improve transparency and to promote managerial accountability and ownership in dealing with audit recommendations;

2. *Also takes note of* the further actions taken or planned by UNFPA in implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors for the biennium 2002-2003, as contained in the annex to document DP/FPA/2006/1;

3. *Requests* the management of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to build on progress achieved and to continue to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, and strengthen management and control systems, including risk-management systems, that conform to best practices in monitoring compliance with the respective codes of ethics and professional conduct of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS;

4. *Also requests* the management of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, in light of the current scrutiny of all United Nations voluntary funds and programmes, to intensify fraud-prevention and anti-corruption measures and to communicate to all staff members and partner organizations, a zero-tolerance attitude with regard to the mismanagement of funds, and to further strengthen systems for reporting and investigating possible fraud or misuse of funds.

27 January 2006

2006/9
Cost-efficient approaches to providing programme-level data

The Executive Board

1. *Having considered* the conference room paper on cost-efficient approaches to providing programme-level data (DP/2006/CRP.2 and DP/FPA/2006/CRP.1);

2. *Acknowledges* that systems are in place within UNDP and UNFPA to capture programme data, including data on activities, costs and results;

3. *Notes* that both UNDP and UNFPA make extensive use of self-assessed programme-level reports in their aggregate and corporate strategic reporting;

4. *Also takes note* of current efforts by UNDP and UNFPA to harmonize programming, financial and administrative processes;

5. *Notes* that within UNDP, the quality of the various systems for data collection at programme and country office level is routinely monitored as part of the comprehensive management audit and oversight provided by the regional bureaux;

6. *Notes with appreciation* that within UNFPA, consideration is being given to expanding the scope of the audit in order to assure the quality of programme-related data;

7. *Also notes with appreciation* that within UNDP and UNFPA, consideration is being given to increasing the relevance of reports in regard to performance assessment by proposing outcome indicators that are more closely attributable to the organization, not withstanding the importance of data on impact;

8. *Encourages* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to pursue their efforts to improve the results-based management systems of their respective organizations and to interact proactively with the Executive Board in this regard;

9. *Requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to ensure that country and regional programme results and performance data consolidated over the programme duration are made available at the end of the country and regional programme cycles, respectively.

27 January 2006

2006/10
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2006

The Executive Board

Recalls that during the first regular session 2006, it:

Item 1

Elected the following members of the Bureau for 2006:

President:	H.E. Mr. Valeriy Kuchinsky (Ukraine)
Vice-President:	Mr. Kazuo Sunaga (Japan)
Vice-President:	H.E. Mr. Crispin Grey-Johnson (Gambia)
Vice-President:	H.E. Ms. Adiyatwidi Adiwoso Asmady (Indonesia)
Vice-President:	Mr. George W. Talbot (Guyana)

Approved the agenda and work plan for its first regular session 2006 (DP/2006/L.1);
Approved the report of the second regular session 2005 (DP/2006/1);
Approved the annual work plan 2006 (DP/2006/CRP.1);
Approved the tentative work plan for the annual session 2006;

Agreed to the following schedule of forthcoming sessions of the Executive Board in 2006:

Annual session 2006:	12-23 June 2006
Second regular session 2006:	11-15 September 2006

UNDP segment

Item 2
UNDP multi-year funding framework

Adopted decision 2006/1 of 27 January 2006 on the UNDP multi-year funding framework;

Item 3
Country programmes and related matters

Adopted decision 2006/2 of 27 January 2006 on the report of the UNDP assessment mission to Myanmar;

Approved the following regional programme documents:

Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, 2006-2010;
Arab States, 2006-2009;

Approved the following country programme documents:

Africa: Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Ghana, Namibia, Swaziland and Uganda;

Arab States: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

Asia and the Pacific: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Viet Nam;

Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States: Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Turkey and Ukraine;

Latin America and the Caribbean: Guyana, Peru and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Items 4 and 5
Evaluation and gender in UNDP

Adopted decision 2006/3 of 27 January 2006 on the evaluation of gender mainstreaming and the gender action plan;

Item 6
United Nations Capital Development Fund

Adopted decision 2006/4 of 27 January 2006 on the UNCDF budgeting and programming decision-making processes;

Item 7
United Nations Development Fund for Women

Adopted decision 2006/5 of 27 January 2006 on the organizational assessment of UNIFEM;

Item 8
United Nations Office for Project Services

Adopted decision 2006/6 of 27 January 2006 on the activities of UNOPS;

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment
Item 1
Organizational matters

Adopted decision 2006/7 of 27 January 2006 on the working methods of the Executive Board;

Item 9
Recommendations of the Board of Auditors

Adopted decision 2006/8 of 27 January 2006 on the follow-up reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the biennium 2002-2003 (UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS);

Item 10
Reports to the Economic and Social Council

Took note of the joint report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to the Economic and Social Council (E/2006/5);

Item 11
Programming process

Adopted decision 2006/9 of 27 January 2006 on cost-efficient approaches to providing programme-level data;

UNFPA segment

Item 12
Country programmes and related matters

Approved the following country programme documents:
Africa: Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Ghana, Namibia, Swaziland and Uganda;
Asia and the Pacific: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Viet Nam;
Arab States and Europe: Albania, Georgia, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Turkey and Ukraine;
Latin America and the Caribbean: Peru.

Item 13
Other matters

Held the following informal briefings and consultations:

Informal briefing on contributing to the Millennium Development Goals through research and development in sexual and reproductive health: the role of the human reproduction programme (UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank);

Presentation on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process in Madagascar;

UNDP gender event;

Presentation on post-conflict peacebuilding: role of UNDP and UNFPA in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Joint meeting

Held a joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP on 20 and 23 January 2006, which addressed the following topics: (a) capacity-building and capacity development; (b) transition from relief to development, focusing on natural disasters; (c) HIV/AIDS: follow-up to the recommendations of the Global Task Team; and (d) simplification and harmonization, with a special focus on the programming process.

27 January 2006

2006/11
Evaluation (UNFPA)

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the periodic report on evaluation (DP/FPA/2006/5);

2. *Welcomes* UNFPA efforts to adopt and comply with internationally recognized evaluation criteria and quality standards for all future UNFPA evaluation activities;

3. *Looks forward to* reviewing compliance with those criteria and standards at the annual session 2007.

16 June 2006

2006/12
Annual report of the Executive Director for 2005 and funding commitments to UNFPA

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the documents that make up the report of the Executive Director for 2005 (DP/FPA/2006/2 (Part I), DP/FPA/2006/2 (Part I, Add. 1) and DP/2006/17/Add. 1-DP/FPA/2006/2 (Part II);

2. *Welcomes* the analytical elements in the annual report of the Executive Director for 2005, including the UNFPA commitment to accountability, and requests that future annual reports of the Executive Director include an even greater emphasis on results, achievements, challenges and lessons learned;

3. *Also takes note of* the report on funding commitments to UNFPA (DP/FPA/2006/3);

4. *Welcomes* the substantial increase in the 2005 regular income level as well as the increase in the 2005 co-financing income, resulting, inter alia, from increased contributions from a number of donors, and also welcomes the contributions made by programme countries, which have enabled UNFPA to reach its highest ever number of donors;

5. *Recognizes* that sustaining and improving the UNFPA funding level will require countries that are in a position to do so to augment their funding efforts during the period of the UNFPA multi-year funding framework, 2004-2007, and encourages all countries in a position to do so to make contributions early in the year and to make multi-year pledges;

6. *Emphasizes* that UNFPA needs strong political and financial support, as well as increased and predictable core funding, in order to enhance its assistance to countries to fully integrate the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development into national development strategies, in line with the 2005 World Summit Outcome;

7. *Reiterates* that regular (core) resources are essential to maintaining the multilateral, neutral and universal nature of UNFPA work, and *encourages* UNFPA to further mobilize these resources while also continuing to mobilize supplementary resources for its programmes.

16 June 2006

2006/13
Internal audit and oversight: UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the UNDP report (DP/2006/31), the UNFPA report (DP/FPA/2006/4) and the UNOPS report (DP/2006/32) on internal audit and oversight and the creation of an independent audit and oversight committee in UNDP and in UNFPA, respectively; as well as the more detailed analysis of important risk areas, such as those described in DP/2006/31;

2. *Reiterates* the need for timely submission of the reports;

3. *Recalls* its decision 2005/19, *welcomes* the progress made in executing the decision, and *requests* that UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS take further steps to comply with it;

4. *Expresses support for* continued strengthening of the internal audit and oversight services of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, and *requests* an assessment of the resources required;

5. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen ongoing monitoring systems in order to address audit findings;

6. *Expresses support for* the initiatives of the audit offices in promoting a risk-management culture in UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, and *requests* them to accelerate the development of appropriate, compatible enterprise risk management systems, taking into account the costs and benefits of introducing such systems;

7. *Takes note of* the new reporting format of UNFPA, and *requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to take further steps to include clearer, more analytical content, so that the reports presented to the Board identify risk areas, show the evolution of the risk areas, analyse the causes of the risk, and recommend systems for improvement;

8. *Requests* that the findings as well as the risk-based analyses be included in the reports presented to the Board;

9. *Requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Directors of UNFPA and UNOPS to also include in their respective annual audit and oversight reports: (a) a summary containing key and recurrent findings, (b) a table identifying the unresolved audit findings by year and prioritization category, and (c) an explanation of findings that have remained unresolved for 18 months or more;

10. *Urges* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Directors of UNFPA and UNOPS to take further steps to harmonize their audit and management response systems, including by standardizing the audit terms and definitions referred to in annex 6 of DP/2006/31, and aligning them with internationally recognized standards; and to provide an interim report at the annual session 2007;

11. *Requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Directors of UNFPA and UNOPS to provide separate management responses to the key and recurring issues identified in their annual internal audit reports;

12. Taking into account the necessity to mitigate the high-risk areas identified in DP/2006/31, DP/FPA/2006/4 and DP/2006/32, *requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Directors of UNFPA and UNOPS to inform the Board, at its annual session 2007, on the development of measures to promote, to the fullest extent possible, the use of national execution, bearing in mind the importance of building national capacity, simplifying procedures and aligning them with national procedures; and fostering appropriate financial management of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS operational activities.

16 June 2006

2006/14
Election of the Bureau of the Executive Board

The Executive Board,

Recalling its decisions 2005/32 and 2006/7 on improving its working methods,

1. *Encourages* regional groups to recommend candidates for the Bureau during the second regular session 2007;

2. *Encourages* the Bureau to invite the recommended candidates mentioned in paragraph 1 above to participate as observers in the monthly meetings of the Bureau in order to become better informed about the ongoing work and better prepared to execute their future functions in the Bureau;

3. *Decides* to convene in early January of each year, starting in 2007, the first meeting of its subsequent first regular session, for the sole purpose of electing a new President and other members of the Bureau, in accordance with rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure, and *requests* UNDP and UNFPA to submit a draft work plan for each subsequent year at the second regular meeting of the Board in September.

22 June 2006

2006/15
United Nations Capital Development Fund

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the results-oriented annual report of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) (DP/2006/23);

2. *Notes with appreciation* the progress that UNCDF has made so far in implementing the business plan; and commends UNCDF efforts to expand its donor base and improve burden-sharing, while noting with concern that UNCDF resource mobilization has fallen short of the requirements set forth in its investment plan and in the business plan;

3. *Stresses* the need to strengthen the financial situation of UNCDF, and reiterates its call to donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to provide and sustain additional funding support for UNCDF programmes and activities in the least developed countries;

4. *Also reiterates* its call to UNDP to assist UNCDF in mobilizing the resources necessary to sustain UNCDF activities and implementation of its investment plan;

5. *Requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Secretary of UNCDF to work closely to finalize the strategic agreement between UNDP and UNCDF, setting forth the key elements of their strategic, operational and financial partnership, and to report their arrangements to the Board at its first regular session 2007;

6. *Also requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Secretary of UNCDF to explore ways to cooperate on strategic planning, funding, programming arrangements and the results framework in the context of the preparation of the UNDP MYFF for the period 2008-2011.

22 June 2006

2006/16
Evaluation of the role and contribution of UNDP in the HIV and AIDS response in Southern Africa and Ethiopia

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Evaluation Office on the role and contributions of UNDP in the HIV and AIDS response in Southern Africa and Ethiopia (DP/2006/29);

2. *Encourages* UNDP to address the recommendations made therein, in particular the need for capacity-building, for national ownership and for working closely with other key stakeholders.

23 June 2006

2006/17
United Nations Office for Project Services

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the appointment of the new Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS);

2. *Takes note of* the annual report of the Executive Director on the activities of UNOPS in 2005 (DP/2006/22);

3. *Welcomes* the significant level of business acquisitions in 2005, demonstrating the continuing demand for the services of the UNOPS;

4. *Also welcomes* the further progress made by UNOPS in the execution of decision 2005/36 of 9 September 2005, and *encourages* UNOPS to continue to focus on the work areas contained therein;

5. *Requests* that UNOPS make further efforts to improve its accuracy in costing as well as to enhance business efficiency;

6. *Requests* UNOPS to inform the Board, at its second regular session 2006, of the progress achieved in implementing the action plan, so as to ensure the availability of certified statements by 30 November 2006.

22 June 2006

2006/18
United Nations Volunteers

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the biennial report of the Administrator (DP/2006/24) on the United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV) detailing its significant growth and diversification over the period;

2. *Acknowledges* the efforts made by UNV in promoting volunteerism for development, including the mobilization of volunteers;

3. *Welcomes* UNV efforts in developing and applying a business model and results framework that highlight UNV areas of distinct contribution to development and peace, and allow for enhanced analysis and understanding of UNV activities and impact on the achievement of the MDGs, and *invites* the Administrator to pay particular attention to the achievement of results and sustainability in their further implementation, as well as in his reporting;

4. *Acknowledges in this regard* the alignment of the UNV results framework with the UNDP multi-year funding framework, including its distinctive contributions to the UNDP drivers of development effectiveness, while ensuring adaptability to the results frameworks of the United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes with which UNV partners;

5. *Welcomes* the increased involvement of nationally recruited volunteers in UNV activities and encourages continued efforts in this direction, noting its potential for capacity development and sustainability;

6. *Encourages* UNV, in this regard, to continue to increase its focus on assisting programme countries in developing sustainable national capacities, to mobilize volunteers domestically through, inter alia, national volunteer schemes, volunteer centres and networks, where appropriate;

7. *Takes special note of* the commitment of UNV to continue strengthening gender equality in all its work, including increasing the percentage of women among serving UNV volunteers;

8. *Reaffirms* the importance of the Special Voluntary Fund for UNV and urges donor countries to continue to support, and other countries in a position to do so to join in supporting the Fund;

9. *Reaffirms its support* for UNV in its role as focal point for the follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers, in line with General Assembly resolution 60/134;

10. *Invites* the Administrator to report on the implementation of this decision in his next biennial report, to be submitted to the Executive Board at its annual session 2008.

23 June 2006

2006/19
Annual report of the Administrator on evaluation

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the annual report of the Administrator on evaluation (DP/2006/27) and the identification of key organizational lessons;

2. *Welcomes* the measures taken to improve the quality of the evaluation function, in particular the codification of an evaluation policy;

3. *Recognizes* the progress made in the conduct and use of evaluation during the year, and *commends* UNDP for the considerable increase in the number of outcome evaluations conducted in comparison with 2004;

4. *Acknowledges* that, during the course of the year, UNDP used evaluation as a basis for improving results-based management, and *encourages* the Administrator to make better use of evaluations;

5. *Encourages* the Administrator to further enhance his efforts to strengthen the quality, efficiency and utility of decentralized evaluations;

6. *Requests* the Administrator to provide a separate management response to the key and recurring issues identified in the annual reports on evaluation;

7. *Approves* the evaluation agenda for 2006-2007.

23 June 2006

2006/20
Evaluation policy

The Executive Board

1. *Welcomes* the evaluation policy contained in document DP/2006/28 as an important step towards establishing a common institutional basis for increasing transparency, coherence and efficiency in generating and using evaluative knowledge for organizational learning and effective management for results, to support accountability and to ensure impartiality;

2. *Requests* UNDP to conduct evaluations of its operations at the country level, in close consultation with national governments;

3. *Approves* this evaluation policy and *notes* that the mandate of the Evaluation Office is to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of UNDP programmes and results;

4. *Requests* UNDP to provide, for information, an evaluation plan developed in consultation with the respective national government as an annex to programme documents submitted to the Executive Board;

5. *Requests* that, as of the annual session 2009, UNDP submit a triennial review of the evaluation policy;

6. *Requests* the Administrator to further strengthen the evaluation function based on the evaluation policy;

7. *Stresses* the need for UNDP to assist governments in developing national evaluation capacities.

23 June 2006

2006/21
The United Nations Development Fund for Women

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on implementing its multi-year funding framework, 2005 (DP/2006/25) and of the report of the Administrator on the *Organizational assessment: UNIFEM past, present and future (DP/2006/26)*;

2. *Recalls* the decision on the evaluation of gender mainstreaming in UNDP (2006/3) and the decision on the organizational assessment of UNIFEM (2006/5);

3. *Recognizes* the focused efforts of UNIFEM to support programme countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, including by harmonizing these efforts with other gender-equality commitments such as the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and regional and national plans of action to achieve gender equality;

4. *Encourages* UNIFEM to continue to contribute to bringing a gender-equality perspective to coordination mechanisms such as United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and national poverty reduction strategies through stronger partnerships with UNDP and United Nations country team members and in line with the recommendations of the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System;

5. *Also encourages* UNIFEM to continue to track progress on its multi-year funding framework according to the goals, outcomes and indicators in its results frameworks, and *requests* that future annual reports of the Executive Director include an even greater emphasis on results, achievements, challenges and lessons learned;

6. *Encourages* all countries in a position to do so to assist UNIFEM in reaching the targeted level of regular resources, including through multi-year pledges;

7. *Requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNIFEM to explore ways to cooperate on strategic planning, funding, programming arrangements and the results framework in the context of the preparation of their multi-year funding frameworks for the period 2008-2011.

23 June 2006

2006/22
MYFF performance and results for 2005

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the report on 2005 performance and results for the multi-year funding framework (DP/2006/17), which features capacity development as its main theme;

2. *Reaffirms* its commitment to results-based management;

3. *Emphasizes* that the report should be based on clear, measurable MYFF indicators, ensuring that the country and regional programme results and performance data consolidated at the end of the respective programming cycles are drawn upon;

4. *Requests* the Administrator to continue to include in future reports analytical information about strategic outcomes based on MYFF indicators, as well as explanations in regard to significant deviations from the results expected;

5. *Requests* UNDP to continue to strengthen the following drivers of development effectiveness: advocating for and fostering an enabling policy environment, forging partnerships for results, and developing national capacities;

6. *Notes with concern* the low degree of emphasis on the following drivers of development effectiveness: enhancing national ownership, seeking South-South solutions, and promoting gender equality, and requests UNDP to increase its emphasis on those drivers.

23 June 2006

2006/23
UNDP multi-year funding framework: report on the emerging strategic vision

The Executive Board

1. *Recalls* its decision 2006/1 requesting the Administrator to submit an annotated outline of the MYFF, 2008-2011, to the Executive Board at its first regular session 2007, and a draft version of the MYFF, 2008-2011, to the Board at its annual session 2007;

2. *Encourages* UNDP to hold informal meetings with Member States on the preparation of the MYFF, 2008-2011, including on the existing practice areas, service lines and drivers of development effectiveness, in order to better understand how they shape programming.

23 June 2006

2006/24
Funding commitments to UNDP

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the report on the status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2006 and onward (DP/2006/18);

2. *Welcomes* the fact that UNDP has achieved the second (2005) annual funding target of its second multi-year funding framework (MYFF) covering the period 2004-2007;

3. *Notes with concern* that current projections suggest that contributions in 2006 will fall short of the third (2006) annual MYFF funding target;

4. *Requests* all countries that have not yet done so to provide contributions to regular resources for 2006, and further requests those that have already made their contributions to consider supplementing their 2006 contributions – if they are in a position to do so – so as to maintain the momentum that has been established in rebuilding the regular resource base of UNDP;

5. *Requests* Member States to give priority to regular ('core') resources over other ('non-core') resources; and also requests UNDP to continue its efforts to reduce its dependency on a few large donors and to broaden its donor base;

6. *Stresses* that core resources, because of their untied nature, continue to be the bedrock of UNDP finances, and requests Member States to give due consideration to the needs of UNDP in this respect, in particular with a view to achieving the annual MYFF targets;

7. *Encourages* Member States in a position to do so to announce multi-year pledges and payment schedules over the period of the second MYFF, and to adhere to such pledges and payment schedules thereafter.

23 June 2006

2006/25
Improving the working methods of the Executive Board

The Executive Board,

Recalling decision 2005/32 on the working methods of the Executive Board,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 48/162, in particular section III. A. 3 contained in the annex thereto,

Reaffirming its rules of procedure,

1. *Takes note of* the guidelines on the working methods of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund contained in the annex, and emphasizes that they are non-binding in nature;

2. *Decides* to review periodically the working methods of the Executive Board with the aim of further improving and streamlining its work.

23 June 2006

Annex: Guidelines on the working methods of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

I. Principles

1. These guidelines on the working methods of the Executive Board are supplementary to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board and are non-binding in nature. The purpose of the guidelines is to facilitate the work of the Executive Board in accordance with its Rules of Procedure. The guidelines are derived from experiences made over years of Executive Board meetings, and are intended to give guidance to current and future members of the Board.

II. Sessions

2. Informal meetings between sessions could be more widely used to provide background information on agenda items as part of the preparatory process for the consideration of these agenda items by the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA.

3. Presentation under agenda items should focus on issues and recommendations that require consideration and action by the Board.

III. Agenda and documentation

4. The official documentation relating to items of the provisional agenda should clearly highlight the issues and recommendations that may require consideration and action by the Board, providing options for action, reporting options and financial implications, as appropriate.

5. Documentation, including draft decisions, prepared under agenda items in response to Executive Board decisions should be within the mandate deriving from those decisions.

IV. Decision-making

6. The decision-making process should be transparent and participatory. The Bureau should help highlight the issues and recommendations that require consideration and action by the Board.

7. In this regard, the Bureau could, in advance of the sessions of the Board:

(a) As early as possible after each Board session, suggest what items of the provisional agenda for the succeeding session could require action by the Board and communicate an indicative list of possible decisions to all Board members, and ask UNDP and UNFPA to prepare draft decision templates;

(b) Organize and chair informal meetings as required to familiarize Board members with the issues and recommendations that require consideration and action by the Board during the succeeding session;

(c) Appoint facilitators early on, preferably in tandem with the informal meetings on the agenda item at hand.

8. The Bureau could, during the sessions of the Board:

(a) Request facilitators to make presentation of elaborated draft decisions as soon as possible to allow the executive board members to have ample time to discuss the decisions.

(b) Allot adequate time for informal consultations, including 'informal' informal consultations, on decisions during the session, and ensure the presence of the appropriate officials at the consultation when necessary.

9. On the basis of official documentation, the secretariat should prepare a compendium of draft decisions, preferably to be presented at the pre-session informal open-ended meeting that is convened at least two weeks before each session.

10. During each session of the Board, the Bureau representative of each regional group should consult with the members of its regional group, with a view to solicit proposals and amendments to the draft decisions contained in the compendium, and report back to the Bureau. The Bureau should inform the facilitator, as appropriate, on any proposals or amendments.

11. The secretariat could, in consultation with the Bureau and the facilitator, issue revised draft decisions as needed during the session.

V. Conduct of business

12. With a view to streamlining meeting procedures, the Chair may choose to invite UNDP and UNFPA to respond to questions and comments from the floor at regular intervals during the debate.

13. Presentations by the secretariat should be clear, concise and as brief as possible.

14. Any delegation has the possibility of making a statement on behalf of several delegations.

15. Hold ample "informal" informal meetings during Executive Board sessions to facilitate the exchange of views among delegations and expedite the adoption of decisions.

2006/26
South-South cooperation

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the report on the implementation of the third cooperation framework for South-South cooperation (DP/2006/21);

2. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening intra- and interregional South-South cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, health, disaster risk reduction and early warning systems, communications, and transport and transit infrastructure, with a particular focus on least developed countries;

3. *Notes with concern* the low degree of emphasis on the driver seeking South-South solutions, and requests UNDP to make further efforts to enhance the degree of emphasis on this driver and to promote its further impact, drawing upon experience with implementing other drivers in the current multi-year funding framework (MYFF);

4. *Requests* UNDP to report to the Executive Board, at its annual session 2007, on further efforts to mainstream the driver seeking South-South solutions into its current MYFF;

5. *Requests* the Administrator to report to the Executive Board, at its annual session 2007, on progress achieved in implementing the third cooperation framework for South-South cooperation and its efforts to mobilize additional resources from donors and other voluntary sources, as well as through triangular cooperation, for enhancing South-South cooperation;

6. *Encourages* all countries in a position to do so to contribute to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (formerly called the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation), which is now included in the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

7. *Requests* the Administrator to support the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in fostering cooperation among developing countries, and in seeking support for such efforts through partnerships within the United Nations system, and through triangular cooperation.

23 June 2006

2006/27
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2006

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its annual session 2006, it:

Item 1
Organizational matters

1. Approved the agenda and work plan for its annual session 2006 (DP/2006/L.2);
2. Approved the report of the first regular session 2006 (DP/2006/15); and
3. Agreed to the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board in 2006 and 2007:

Second regular session 2006:	11 to 13 September 2006
First regular session 2007:	19 to 26 January 2007
Annual session 2007:	11 to 22 June 2007 (New York)
Second regular session 2007:	10 to 14 September 2007

4. Adopted decision 2006/25 on improving the working methods of the Executive Board.

UNFPA segment

Items 2 and 3
Annual report of the Executive Director and funding commitments

Adopted decision 2006/12 on the annual report of the Executive Director for 2005 and funding commitments to UNFPA.

Item 4
Country programmes and related matters

Took note of the following draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Africa
Draft country programme document for Ethiopia (DP/FPA/DCP/ETH/6)
Draft country programme document for Guinea (DP/FPA/DCP/GIN/6)
Draft country programme document for Mozambique (DP/FPA/DCP/MOZ/7)
Draft country programme document for Sao Tome and Principe (DP/FPA/DCP/STP/5)

Arab States and Europe
Draft country programme document for Egypt (DP/FPA/DCP/EGY/8)
Draft country programme document for the Republic of Moldova (DP/FPA/DCP/MDA/1)
Draft country programme document for Morocco (DP/FPA/DCP/MAR/7)
Draft country programme document for the Syrian Arab Republic (DP/FPA/DCP/SYR/7)
Draft country programme document for Tunisia (DP/FPA/DCP/TUN/8)
Draft country programme document for Yemen (DP/FPA/DCP/YEM/4)

Asia and the Pacific
Draft country programme document for Thailand (DP/FPA/DCP/THA/9)
Took note of the one-year extensions of country programmes for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda and Togo (DP/FPA/2006/6)
Took note of the one-year extensions of country programmes for Lebanon and Sudan (DP/FPA/2006/7)
Took note of the one-year extensions of country programmes for Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka (DP/FPA/2006/8)
Took note of the one-year extensions of country programmes for Haiti, Mexico and Nicaragua (DP/FPA/2006/9)
Took note of the report on the implementation of the UNFPA special programme of assistance to Myanmar (DP/FPA/2006/10)

Item 5
Evaluation

Adopted decision 2006/11 on evaluation.

UNDP segment

Item 6
Annual report of the Administrator

Adopted decision 2006/22 on multi-year funding framework performance and results for 2005 (DP/2006/17 and Corr.1, Add.1* and Add.2).

Item 7
Funding commitments

Adopted decision 2006/24 on the status of regular resources funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2006 and onwards (DP/2006/18).

Item 8
Human Development Report

Took note of the update on Human Development Report consultations (DP/2006/19).

Item 9
Country programmes and related matters

Took note of the following draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Draft country programme document for Ethiopia (DP/DCP/ETH/1)
Draft country programme document for Gabon (DP/DCP/GAB/1)
Draft country programme document for Guinea (DP/DCP/GIN/1)
Draft country programme document for Mozambique (DP/DCP/MOZ/1)
Draft country programme document for Sao Tome and Principe (DP/DCP/STP/1)
Draft country programme document for Thailand (DP/DCP/THA/1)

Draft country programme document for Egypt (DP/DCP/EGY/1)
Draft country programme document for Morocco (DP/DCP/MAR/1)
Draft country programme document for the Syrian Arab Republic (DP/DCP/SYR/1)
Draft country programme document for Tunisia (DP/DCP/TUN/1)
Draft country programme document for Yemen (DP/DCP/YEM/1)

Draft country programme document for the Republic of Moldova (DP/DCP/MDA/1)

Took note of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Bhutan, Costa Rica, Haiti, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malawi, Nepal, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago;

Approved the second one-year extension of the country programmes for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia.

Item 10
South-South cooperation

Adopted decision 2006/26 on the implementation of the third cooperation framework for South-South cooperation.

Item 11
United Nations Office for Project Services

Adopted decision 2006/17 on the annual report of the Executive Director (DP/2006/22) and took note of the update on the status of the implementation of UNOPS transition measures (DP/2006/CRP.3).

Item 12
United Nations Capital Development Fund

Adopted decision 2006/15 on the results-oriented annual report of UNCDF (DP/2006/23).

Item 13
United Nations Volunteers

Adopted decision 2006/18 on the report of the Administrator on the United Nations Volunteers Programme (DP/2006/24).

Item 14
United Nations Development Fund for Women

Adopted decision 2006/21 on implementing the UNIFEM multi-year funding framework 2005 (DP/2006/25) and on the report of the Administrator on the *Organizational assessment: UNIFEM past, present and future* (report of the advisory panel to the UNIFEM Consultative Committee) (DP/2006/26).

Item 15
Evaluation

Adopted decision 2006/19 on the annual report of the Administrator on evaluation (DP/2006/27);

Adopted decision 2006/20 on the evaluation policy of UNDP (DP/2006/28);

Adopted decision 2006/16 on the role and contribution of UNDP in the HIV and AIDS response in Southern Africa and Ethiopia (DP/2006/29), and took note of the management response thereto (DP/2006/30).

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

Item 16
Internal audit and oversight

Adopted decision 2006/13 on the UNDP report on internal audit and oversight (DP/2006/31); the UNFPA report on internal audit and oversight activities in 2005 (DP/FPA/2006/4); and the UNOPS report on internal audit and oversight (DP/2006/32).

Item 17
Programming process

Took note of the report on the implementation experience of joint programming and joint programmes by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF since 2004 (DP/2006/33-DP/FPA/2006/11);

Postponed consideration of the report on options for improving the harmonized country programme approval process (DP/2006/34-DP/FPA/2006/12).

Item 18
Field visits

Took note of the report on the joint UNDP/UNFPA field visit to Tanzania (DP/FPA/2006/CRP.5-DP/2006/CRP.3);

Postponed consideration of the joint UNDP/UNFPA field visit to Indonesia (DP/2006/CRP.4-DP/FPA/2006/CRP.2).

Item 19
UNDP multi-year funding framework

Adopted decision 2006/23 on the UNDP multi-year funding framework, 2008-2011.

Item 20
Other matters

Held the following informal briefings and consultations:

UNFPA

UNFPA special event: panel discussion on population and poverty eradication;
Informal consultations on the medium-term strategic plan;
Informal briefing on regionalization;
Informal briefing on the UNFPA corporate strategy for humanitarian response;

UNDP

Informal briefing on the UNDP strategy for Central Asia, including the Central Asia human development report;

Joint UNDP/UNFPA

Joint informal briefing on the humanitarian response;

Joint informal briefing on international migration;

Joint informal briefing on the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2001-2010.

23 June 2006

2006/28
Annual review of the financial situation, 2005 (UNDP)

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the annual review of the financial situation, 2005 (DP/2006/37) and the detailed information relating thereto (DP/2006/37/Add.1);

2. *Reiterates*, as stated in its decision 2006/24, the encouragement that all Member States in a position to do so to increase regular resources funding, bearing in mind the 2007 MYFF target of $1.1 billion in line with the rebuilding of regular resource base put forward by the Administrator;

3. *Recognizes* that predictability and timeliness of contributions are important factors in effective programming and liquidity management, and *encourages* Member States in a position to do so to announce multi-year funding pledges.

13 September 2006

2006/29
Report of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office for the biennium 2004-2005

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the report on the activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office (IAPSO) for the biennium 2004-2005 (DP/2006/39) and its continuing self-financed status;

2. *Encourages* IAPSO to continue to develop its procurement capabilities so that it remains a credible resource for procurement capacity development for the UNDP, other United Nations organizations, and partner governments;

3. *Recommends* that IAPSO continue its efforts to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of the procurement outcomes it achieves in the global supply markets in which it regularly procures on behalf of the UNDP and other eligible clients;

13 September 2006

2006/30
Determination of cost-recovery rates

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report on the current practice of determining specific cost-recovery rates and criteria (DP/2006/41) submitted by UNDP pursuant to Executive Board decision 2005/18;

2. *Reiterates* that UNDP must ensure full recovery, at an aggregate level, of all actual costs incurred in implementing activities financed from UNDP third-party cost sharing, trust fund contributions and programme country cost sharing;

3. *Stresses* that regular resources, because of their untied nature, inter alia, are the bedrock of the operational activities of UNDP, and, in this regard, *notes with concern* that the relative share of regular resources available to UNDP has decreased, and *encourages* all donors to strive to increase contributions to regular resources;

4. *Stresses* that other resources should support the multi-year funding framework (MYFF) priorities and that regular resources should not subsidize the support costs for programmes funded by other resources;

5. *Encourages* UNDP to apply procedures that reduce transaction costs for programmes funded by other resources;

6. *Asserts* that the basic objectives of simplification, harmonization and fiscal prudence should guide the recovery policy;

7. *Reiterates* its request to UNDP to carry out a review of its cost-recovery policy in time for the MYFF, 2008, as requested in decision 2004/30, and *requests* UNDP to report to the Board earlier than had been anticipated in that decision, namely, at its annual session in June 2007;

8. *Emphasizes* that this policy review should include lessons learned from the cost-recovery policy and should provide sufficient detailed analysis for the Board to make a decision, as appropriate, on a new, comprehensive cost-recovery policy. In this regard, the Board *requests*, to the extent possible:

(a) A detailed financial and substantive analysis on the current cost-recovery practices and the estimated costs incurred in providing general management support, including by funding modality, execution modality and nature of project;

(b) In line with the findings of the review, a proposal for cost-recovery policy options, indicating the projected income and the impact on UNDP and on the harmonization process, taking into account country-specific circumstances as well as the fact that the allocation system of income from cost recovery is presented and discussed in the biennial support budget;

9. *Requests* the Administrator, in close cooperation with the members of the United Nations Group, to present a status report in 2007 on the progress towards harmonization on cost recovery, including information on cost-recovery methodologies.

13 September 2006

2006/31
Assistance to Myanmar

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the present document and of the report submitted by the independent assessment mission to Myanmar, in particular the strategic challenges and recommendations mentioned therein;

2. *Requests* that the Administrator take account of and implement the findings of the independent assessment mission, as appropriate, under the Human Development Initiative;

3. *Approves* the extension of the current phase of the Human Development Initiative for the period 2008-2010, to be prepared in 2007, with the understanding that formal presentation will be made to the Executive Board in September 2007.

13 September 2006

2006/32
Welcoming the Republic of Montenegro

The Executive Board,

Welcoming the Republic of Montenegro as a new programme country in the United Nations Development Programme,

Authorizes the Administrator to proceed with programme development in the country at the request of the Government and in close cooperation with the Government and other relevant stakeholders, taking into account other development activities being undertaken in the Republic of Montenegro.

13 September 2006

2006/33
United Nations Office for Project Services

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the progress report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS);

2. *Appreciates* the efforts under way to resubmit the 2004-2005 financial statements, and *requests* UNOPS to present a report on its financial, administrative and operational situation at the first regular session 2007.

13 September 2006

2006/34
Annual financial review, 2005 (UNFPA)

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the annual financial review, 2005 (DP/FPA/2006/13);

2. *Welcomes* the encouraging increase in the UNFPA income level while *recognizing* the growing demand for UNFPA activities in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, as well as the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Further recognizes* that increased, predictable and timely payment of contributions is essential to maintaining liquidity and to facilitating continuous programme implementation;

4. *Reiterates* that regular (core) resources are essential to maintaining the multilateral, neutral and universal nature of UNFPA work;

5. *Encourages* all Member States in a position to do so to increase their funding, and to give priority to regular resources over other resources;

6. *Calls upon* Member States in a position to do so to make multi-year contributions and announce payment schedules, and to adhere to such contributions and payment schedules thereafter.

13 September 2006

2006/35
UNFPA role in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery

The Executive Board

1. *Recognizes* the critical role of UNFPA in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery and *encourages* UNFPA to continue to strengthen its efforts in this area;

2. *Endorses* the UNFPA strategy for emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery programmes at national, regional and international levels, as the basis for strengthening UNFPA activities in this area;

3. *Requests* UNFPA to provide further information to the Executive Board at its first regular session 2007, on the following issues:

(a) resource needs, funding modalities and staff required to implement the strategy;

(b) coordination between UNFPA and other United Nations organizations, funds and programmes, including Inter-Agency Standing Committee roles and responsibilities;

(c) the monitoring and evaluation framework of the strategy;

4. *Encourages* UNFPA to align the strategy for emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery with the medium-term strategic plan, to be approved in 2007;

5. *Agrees* to maintain the emergency fund at $3 million a year, funded from regular resources;

6. *Encourages* contributions to UNFPA to implement the strategy.

13 September 2006

2006/36
Review of the country programme approval process

The Executive Board,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Decides that:

1. In order to decrease the time frame for the country programme approval process and to create more scope for synchronization with the length of national programme cycles, draft country programme documents will continue to be presented for discussion at the annual session of the Executive Board, as per existing practice. The revised country programme documents will then be posted on the website of the organization no later than six weeks after the discussion, and a hard copy of the revised documents will be provided, upon request, to Board Members by the secretariat. The country programmes will then be approved by the Board at its second regular session, on a no-objection basis without presentation or discussion, unless at least five members have informed the secretariat in writing before the session of their wish to bring a particular country programme before the Executive Board. Approval of country programmes for which revised country programme documents were not posted within six weeks will be postponed to the first regular session of the Executive Board, the following year;

2. The submission and approval of country programmes by the Executive Board will continue to follow the guidelines for length and content adopted in its decision 2001/11. Continued efforts should be made to improve results-based planning and management, and to strengthen the alignment of country programmes with national strategies and with the approved medium-term strategic plan. The UNDP and UNFPA country programme documents should clearly contribute to and derive from the national plan and strategies, as well as from the outcomes established in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), in countries where the UNDAF exists.

13 September 2006

2006/37
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its second regular session 2006

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its second regular session 2006, it:

Item 1
Organizational matters

Approved the agenda and work plan for the second regular session 2006 (DP/2006/L.3);

Approved the report of the annual session 2006 (DP/2006/35);

Agreed to the following schedule of sessions of the Executive Board in 2007:

First regular session 2007:	19 to 26 January 2007
Annual session 2007:	11 to 22 June 2007 (New York)
Second regular session 2007:	10 to 14 September 2007

UNDP segment

Item 2
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2006/28 of 13 September 2006 on the annual review of the financial situation, 2005 (UNDP);

Adopted decision 2006/29 of 13 September 2006 on the report of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office for the biennium 2004-2005;

Adopted decision 2006/30 of 13 September 2006 on the determination of cost recovery rates.

Item 3
Country programmes and related matters (UNDP)

Adopted decision 2006/31 of 13 September 2006 on assistance to Myanmar;

Adopted decision 2006/32 of 13 September 2006 on welcoming the Republic of Montenegro;

Took note of the following draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Draft country programme document for the Central African Republic (DP/DCP/CAF/1)
Draft country programme document for Eritrea (DP/DCP/ERI/1)
Draft country programme document for the Gambia (DP/DCP/GMB/1)
Draft country programme document for Senegal (DP/DCP/SEN/1)
Draft country programme document for Seychelles (DP/DCP/SYC/1)
Draft country programme document for South Africa (DP/DCP/ZAF/1)
Draft country programme document for the United Republic of Tanzania (DP/DCP/TZA/1)
Draft country programme document for Zambia (DP/DCP/ZMB/1)
Draft country programme document for Zimbabwe (DP/DCP/ZWE/1);

Draft country programme document for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DP/DCP/PRK/2)
Draft country programme document for the Lao People's Democratic Republic (DP/DCP/LAO/1)
Draft country programme document for Mongolia (DP/DCP/MNG/1);

Draft country programme document for Algeria (DP/DCP/DZA/1)
Draft country programme document for Saudi Arabia (DP/DCP/SAU/1)
Draft country programme document for Somalia (DP/DCP/SOM/1);

Draft country programme document for Croatia (DP/DCP/HRV/2)
Draft country programme document for the Republic of Montenegro (DP/DCP/MGO/1);

Draft country programme document for Belize (DP/DCP/BLZ/1)
Draft country programme document for Brazil (DP/DCP/BRA/1)
Draft country programme document for Chile (DP/DCP/CHL/1)
Draft country programme document for the Dominican Republic (DP/DCP/DOM/1)
Draft country programme document for El Salvador (DP/DCP/SLV/1)
Draft country programme document for Honduras (DP/DCP/HND/1)
Draft country programme document for Jamaica (DP/DCP/JAM/1)
Draft country programme document for Panama (DP/DCP/PAN/1)
Draft country programme document for Paraguay (DP/DCP/PRY/1)
Draft country programme document for Uruguay (DP/DCP/URY/1);

Approved the two-year extension of the country programme for Sudan for the period 2007-2008 (DP/2006/42/Rev.1);

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the first country programmes for Colombia, Equatorial Guinea and Suriname (DP/2006/42/Rev.1);

Took note of the first one-year extensions of the regional programmes for Africa and for Asia and the Pacific (DP/2006/42/Rev.1).

Item 5
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

Adopted decision 2006/33 of 13 September 2006 on the progress report of the Executive Director on the activities of UNOPS.

UNFPA segment

Item 9
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters (UNFPA)

Adopted decision 2006/34 of 13 September 2006 on the annual financial review, 2005.

Item 10
UNFPA role in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery

Adopted decision 2006/35 of 13 September 2006 on the UNFPA role in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery.

Item 11
Country programmes and related matters (UNFPA)

Took note of the following draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Draft country programme document for the Central African Republic (DP/FPA/DCP/CAF/6)
Draft country programme document for Eritrea (DP/FPA/DCP/ERI/3)

Draft country programme document for Gabon (DP/FPA/DCP/GAB/5)
Draft country programme document for the Gambia (DP/FPA/DCP/GMB/6)
Draft country programme document for Senegal (DP/FPA/DCP/SEN/6)
Draft country programme document for South Africa (DP/FPA/DCP/ZAF/3)
Draft country programme document for the United Republic of Tanzania (DP/FPA/DCP/TZA/6)
Draft country programme document for Zambia (DP/FPA/DCP/ZMB/6)
Draft country programme document for Zimbabwe (DP/FPA/DCP/ZWE/5);

Draft country programme document for Algeria (DP/DCP/FPA/DZA/4);

Draft country programme document for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DP/FPA/DCP/PRK/4)
Draft country programme document for the Lao People's Democratic Republic (DP/FPA/DCP/LAO/4)
Draft country programme document for Mongolia (DP/FPA/DCP/MNG/4)
Draft programme of assistance for Myanmar (DP/FPA/DCP/MMR/2)

Draft country programme document for Brazil (DP/FPA/DCP/BRA/4)
Draft country programme document for the Dominican Republic (DP/FPA/DCP/DOM/4)
Draft country programme document for El Salvador (DP/FPA/DCP/SLV/6)
Draft country programme document for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries (DP/FPA/DCP/CAR/4)
Draft country programme document for Honduras (DP/FPA/DCP/HND/6)
Draft country programme document for Panama (DP/FPA/DCP/PAN/1)
Draft country programme document for Paraguay (DP/FPA/DCP/PRY/6)
Draft country programme document for Uruguay (DP/FPA/DCP/URY/1).

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

Item 6
Follow-up to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting

Took note of the joint report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (DP-FPA/2006/1-E/ICEF/2006/20);

Other

Attended a video conference by the United Nations Board of Auditors on the audit findings of the financial statements for UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS for the biennium that ended 31 December 2005.

Item 7
Programming process

Adopted decision 2006/36 of 13 September 2006 on the review of the country programme approval process.

Item 8
Field visits

Took note of the report on the joint field visit to Indonesia (DP-FPA/2006/CRP.2-E/ICEF/2006/CRP.16).

Item 12
Other matters

Held the following informal briefings and consultations:

UNFPA

Informal briefing on regionalization;
Informal briefing on the global programme to enhance reproductive health commodity security.

UNOPS

Informal discussion on the situation of UNOPS.

13 September 2006

Annex II

Membership of the Executive Board in 2006

(Term expires on the last day of the year indicated)

African States: Botswana (2006); Cameroon (2006); Algeria (2008); Congo (2006); Eritrea (2006); Gambia (2006); Benin (2008); Uganda (2007).

Asian and Pacific States: China (2006); Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2007); Bangladesh (2008); Indonesia (2006); Islamic Republic of Iran (2006); Pakistan (2008); Kazakhstan (2007).

Latin America and Caribbean States: Ecuador (2008); Cuba (2007); Guatemala (2007); Guyana (2007); Jamaica (2008).

Eastern European and other States: Belarus (2007); Poland (2006); Russian Federation (2008); Ukraine (2007).

Western European and other States*: Canada; Denmark, France; Japan; Netherlands; New Zealand; Norway; Portugal; Sweden; Turkey; United Kingdom; United States.

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* WEOG has its own rotation schedule that varies every year.

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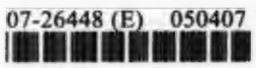

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